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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Incomes Soar

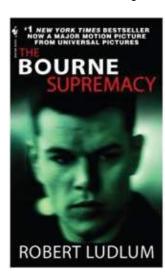
Millions of economic stimulus payments sent after-tax U.S. incomes surging in May.

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French Royalty

France takes over the presidency of the 27-nation European Union.

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Beach Reads

Summer is a season that demands a certain kind of book. It's a time for

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Commerce planning business expo for August. PAGE 2 NMI 20 Hotshots leave to battle Calif. Wildfires. PAGE 5

\$5.1M DCM contract 'a mistake'

agnes_donato@saipantribune.com

fter five hours of questioning by lawmakers yesterday, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna admitted that CUC had made a mistake with its \$5.1-million contract with the Guam-based firm fixing the engines at the Saipan power plant.

See \$5.1M on Page 4

We made a mistake. We learned from our lesson, and we're not going to do it again.

-Antonio Muna, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director



Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s executive director Antonio Muna gestures as he answers a question, as Public Utilities Commission's Kimberly King-Hinds and Viola Alepuyo listen during a hearing with members of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill yesterday.

Wage hike study bill heads to Bush

By AGNES E. DONATO

REPORTER

A proposal to have more studies done on the impact of recent wage hikes in the

Northern Marianas and American Samoa is now with President Bush.

The wage study provision is included in the Iraq war supplemental funding See WAGE on Page 4



Time seems to have stopped at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

La Fiesta eyed as adult biz complex

stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com BUSINESS EDITOR

The CNMI Commerce Department is

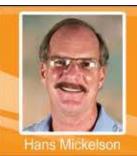
eyeing the now abandoned La Fiesta

mall in San Roque as a potential site

for a complex housing strip clubs and similar adult businesses.

The La Fiesta property has remained eerily vacant ever since its doors shut in 2004 amid reports of severe finan-

See LA FIESTA on Page 4



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Local

Commerce planning business expo for August

stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com BUSINESS EDITOR

Government agencies in the Commonwealth are planning a business exposition focused on bolstering relations between local regulators and the private sector—a move aimed at preparing local business people for the economic fallout of federalization and getting them ready for the pending military buildup on Guam.

Commerce Secretary James Santos and Deputy Secretary Michael Ada said they are in the early stages of organizing the expo-now slated for August—with officials from the Commonwealth Development Authority, the departments of Labor and Finance, and other government agencies.

"There hasn't been a public forum for businesses to discuss challenges involving

the government," Ada said. "We're going to be looking at how the CNMI's businesses can position themselves for the federal takeover and also to take advantage of the increased military presence on Guam in the future."

Federalization of the Commonwealth's immigration rules is expected to take a severe toll on the local economy, according to many experts. As a result, a host of businesses

are preparing for serious losses. However, some experts believe the upcoming military realignment on Guam will improve economic conditions throughout the region.

The event's agenda is still under development, according to Santos, who added that the program might include some guest speakers. The concerns of small businesses, he added, will figure prominently in the forum.

"Our goal is hopefully to

bring in those companies that are doing business in the CNMI but haven't really voiced their concerns," said Santos.

The exposition could provide many local businesses a chance to learn more about the agencies' regulatory role, Ada said, and comment on local policies that affect them.

"We can't assume we know everything on the Hill; we need to get down and talk with businesses," Ada said.

The exposition might also give business leaders a chance to meet, develop new contacts and find new opportunities in anticipation of the military buildup and the federal immigration rules.

"It's going to at least instill some direction in the business community here on how we can attack the military buildup," said Ada. "On the flip side of that, we can look at how we can brace ourselves for the takeover."



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KOREAN CULTURAL CONCERT

Visiting members of a Korean dance company gather for a photo after the successful Korean Culture Festival Concert in celebration of the 232nd U.S. Independence day at the Liberation Festival grounds in Garapan Sunday night.

Two stage armed robbery at CK store By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Two armed men robbed a store along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa Thursday night.

After getting an undetermined amount of money and

merchandise from Joy Market, the suspects fled the scene, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said no one was hurt in the robbery.

Ogumoro said police officers

2 named to election panel

Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez has named two individuals to serve on the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Josepha Barcinas was nominated to represent Rota, and Vicente C. Reyes was appointed to represent Tinian. Both appointments require Senate confirmation.

If confirmed, Barcinas will serve a four-year term, which will expire on May 23, 2012. Reves will serve on the commission until July 21, 2011.

They will join chairwoman Frances M. Sablan, and members Miranda V. Manglona, Elizabeth Dlg. Aldan, Melvin

B. Sablan, Jose L. Itibus, Jesus I. Sablan, and Jose P. Kiyoshi in the commission.

The commission is faced with the task of holding the first-ever election for U.S. congressional delegate in November this year. There are ongoing efforts to get initiatives to amend the Constitution and the law on the ballot.

In related news, Villagomez appointed Sixto K. Igisomar to serve as a member of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees. His appointment went into effect retroactively to April 2, 2008. Igisomar's nomination is also subject to Senate confirmation. (Agnes E. Donato)

were dispatched to Joy Market after DPS received a report about a robbery incident on Thursday at 6:49pm.

Preliminary police's investigation showed that two unidentified men entered the store and demanded money from the establishment's two employees.

The victims said the suspects held them at knifepoint.

One suspect was described as armed with a knife and was wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans.

The other suspect was armed with a machete and was wearing a long-sleeved white shirt with black stripes and black pants.

Both suspects were clad in white cloth with black designs over their heads to conceal their face.

"This case is under further investigation," Ogumoro said.

She said the Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to \$1,000 cash reward to anyone who can give information leading to the arrest of the suspects.

Last March 21, a man staged a robbery at Capitol Poker in Sadog Tasi in broad daylight. After a few days, the suspect was arrested.

Registration for Democrats

The NMI Democratic Party will be registering Democrats at the Kagman Community Center on July 2 at 6:30pm. All registered voters are encouraged to attend and see where the NMI Democratic Party stands on the current issues faced by the CNMI.

The purpose of the regis-

tration is to align the NMI Democratic Party with the US Democrats. The NMI Democrats will have a delegation for the 2012 Democratic National Convention. Only voters who register as a Democrat will be able to vote in the Democratic primaries. (PR)

Deployment of 32 personnel is affecting DPS' operations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The scheduled deployment of 32 police officers and firefighters to the Middle East is beginning to affect operations at the Department of Public Safety, with some of these personnel already taking their leave.

DPS Commissioner Claudio Norita told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that as of last Thursday he already received copies of 20 deployment orders.

"So we're helping them process their military leave and annual leave. I think the order was for July 14," Norita said.

"But some of them are al-

ready on leave. They're taking off to spend more time with their family," he said. "It is affecting us now."

Particularly affected are the patrol and traffic units, Norita said.

The commissioner said when the deployment order came, DPS was just lucky that Saipan had a reserved volunteer group for the Hotshots.

To address the manpower shortage, Norita said they already planned this ahead of time. As example, he cited the elimination of some of the secondary programs.

Norita, however, stressed that DPS is going to incur overtime.

"But at least if I can expedite the [police and fire] academy and graduate the class before the end of August or middle of September then I will be able to restore normal operations," the commissioner said.

Norita earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the departure of the personnel means that the department will be consuming overtime to cover the officers that are gone.

"The overtime will increase between July and August 2008," Norita said.

Aside from 20 new police officers and 15 firefighters, DPS is also hiring five civilian dispatchers.

Three on trial for fatal Tonga fire

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—A forensic investigator from the Australian Federal Police told the Nuku'alofa Court this morning, Friday June 27 that the fire that gutted the Shoreline Building on November 16, 2006 was deliberately lit.

On Day 9 of the trial of 'Isileli Pulu and two co-accused, a witness for the Crown, Garreth Williams said that their forensic investigation of the gutted Shoreline Building started three days after the riots.

Their examination of the scene revealed that it was a rapidly burning fire and it was deliberately lit. They also identified the area of origin to be the general area encompassing the storeroom to northwest of the storeroom on the ground floor of the building.

They also concluded that the fire was not started in the office area at the back of the building, the bathroom, the driveway or the area on the front door.

"Because of the amount of fire and damage to the area of origin we could not conclusively determine whether there were more than one fire set."

He said that prior to their arrival to inspect the crime scene the storeroom was already cleared and the deceased were also moved from the scene they were allegedly found in.

"Therefore we were unable to make any conclusion as to where the deceased were found", said Garreth.

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NORTHWEST AIRLINES



A. Samoa firefighters to battle US blazes

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International/ PIR) — The United States Forest Service is again calling up fire fighters in American Samoa to help put out raging forest fires on the US west coast.

They will join RELATED NEWS

They will join fire fighters in California.

More than 1,000 wildfires continued to

burn in the States, and its Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has called

NMI 20 Hotshots leave to

PAGE 5

battle Calif. Wildfires.

on President Bush to declare a federal emergency in the state.

Around 107,000 hectares of tinder—dry forest and parkland have burnt across northern California since the fires erupted on June 20.

Mino Malua of the National Park of American Samoa is leading the group of 15 which leaves on Tuesday. "For the last

couple of weeks we have done training and a refresher course, so now we

are on call to fight fires in California for 21 days. My concern is the safety of our guys." Last October, devastating wildfires were among the worst in California history, leaving eight people dead, destroying 2,000 homes, displacing 640,000 people and causing \$1 billion US dollars in damage.

Three arrested in Majuro drug busts

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR) —Two Marshall Islanders and one citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia have been arrested in Majuro for allegedly importing and selling marijuana.

Police charged one person for attempting to import more than 2,000

marijuana cigarettes, with a local street value of \$10,000, to Majuro from the capital of the Federated States of Micronesia, Pohnpei.

Henris Edmond, an FSM citizen who lives in Majuro, was arrested at the airport on his return from Pohnpei after police were tipped off that he would be carrying marijuana.

In a separate incident, Helson Davis, and his wife Atkim Welch, have been charged with distribution of marijuana and possession of narcotics for allegedly selling marijuana to minors. If found guilty, the couple faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in jail

A PACIFIC BRIEFS

American Samoan soldier killed in Iraq

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International/ PIR) —A solider from American Samoa was one of the three U.S. marines killed last week in Iraq. The Defense Department said 42 year old Lieutenant Colonel Max Galeai and two other marines were killed while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar province. The exact number t of soldiers from American Samoa killed in the Iraq war is not known because not all soldiers record the territory as their home having entered the military from other states. But the number of fatalities with Samoan ancestry is believed to be more than 20. Lt. Col. Galeai would be the highest ranking Samoan soldier killed in Iraq.

Aussie reporters denied entry to Fiji

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International/PIR)
— A group of ABC reporters initially denied visas to visit Fiji next month will likely be allowed into the country, a Fiji official says. ABC management has been in negotiations with Fiji's military government after being told the visit, due in mid—July, would not be supported. The move sparked fears that Fiji's government, which seized power in a military coup in December 2006,

may be moving to prevent foreign media from covering events in the country. But acting Deputy Secretary of Information, Major Neumi Leweni, says the ABC team will likely be allowed in. He says a decision will be probably be made on Monday.

Cook Island elders support undersea mining

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International/PIR) — An overwhelming majority of the Cook Islands Koutu Nui, or traditional leaders, have backed the work of the Manganese Resource Advisory Committee. The Committee is trying to ensure the Cook Islands retain

ownership of the seabed resource and that it is protected by robust legislation. It would also develop policy to govern any development, and ensure it is done in the most environmentally sustainable way. All but two of the 50 members of the Koutu Nui backed the Committee. The Deputy Prime Minister, Sir Terepai Maoate, who initiated the establishment of the Committee last year, says the Koutu Nui support is welcomed. He says it is important that the traditional leaders are kept aware of the work of the committee and the cautious steps being taken in possible development of the nodules.

Fiji students ordered out

of Pakistan

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR) —Fiji students are among a group to be deported from Pakistan shortly. The Pakistan Post reports that according to an Islamic seminary, the Pakistani government is deporting eight foreign students. It's not clear however how many of them are from Fiji. According to the report, the Interior Ministry ordered that the students leave the country within 15 days. The students are from the United States, Thailand and Fiji. No reason has been given by the Government, but it's understood the seminary would appeal to have it rescinded. About 500 of the seminary's 5,000 students are foreigners.

WAGE

From Page 1

bill, which was presented to the President on Saturday, June 27, 2007 after having passed in identical form in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The bill will become law once Bush signs it.

The Fitial administration, which has opposed increases to the CNMI minimum wage, has welcomed the additional economic studies. It expressed hope the studies will provide federal

policy-makers with a sound basis for minimum wage policy in the Commonwealth.

"The Governor believes that federal minimum wage policies should be objective and data-driven, not based on political ideology or partisan considerations. We support careful wage studies for both the CNMI and American Samoa, and we hope federal policy makers will be guided by such studies. We hope they will be willing to make changes if warranted by the economic data," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

Under the bill, the U.S. Government Accountability Office will be required to study the impact of the first two minimum wage hikes in the CNMI and American Samoa. The GAO will study how the wage increases have affected the rates of employment and the living standards of workers. The study will include other factors that impact employment and quality of living such as inflation in the cost of food, energy, and other commodities.

In addition, the GAO will look at how future increases might affect employment and the living standards of workers and the profitability of businesses, while also considering factors such as energy costs and the value of tax benefits.

The GAO study is due between March 15, 2009 and April 25, 2009.

Furthermore, the bill requires federal agencies to include the CNMI and American Samoa in regular studies done for the 50 states. The requirement applies to U.S. Department of Labor's household and establishment surveys, the Bureau of Economic Analysis' gross domestic data reports, and the Census Bureau's population estimates

and demographic profiles.

The minimum wages for the Northern Marianas and American Samoa increased by another 50 cents last month. It was the second increase under the federal wage law signed last year. The minimum wage levels in both jurisdictions will continue to rise until they reach federal level of \$7.25.

The CNMI minimum wage is now \$4.05 an hour. For American Samoa, current minimum wages vary by industry, with the most significant being the minimum wage for the tuna canning industry, which is currently \$4.26 an hour.

LA FIESTA

From Page 1

cial problems by its previous owners. Yet Commerce in a proposal presented to the CNMI Zoning Board June 30 said the mall—three corridors of retails space totaling more than 37,000 square meters—provides an "ideal set up" for a so-called "adult business park" because it has design elements suited for the task.

The zoning board is now taking proposals from prospective investors

on the creation of such a park—a hub for businesses like x-rated clubs, adult bookstores and massage parlors—in an effort to improve the image of Saipan's tourism centers by moving such establishments to more discreet locations.

"From a regulatory enforcement standpoint, La Fiesta makes sense," said Deputy Commerce Secretary Michael Ada in an interview Monday, noting that keeping adult businesses in one concentrated location would aid in the enforcement of alcohol regulations and other laws. "This is just an idea we wanted to put out there. From our standpoint, it could stimulate some investment in the economy."

Ada added that some investors on Guam have expressed early interest in the La Fiesta plan.

Commerce's proposal comes after the zoning board last week gave its preliminary approval to a set of proposed regulations establishing a zone along Middle Road where adult businesses will be concentrated.

Zoning administrator Steve Tilley said the board will publish the plan as a

formal proposal in July and take comments on it from the public. The board could finalize the proposal as early as August, giving adult businesses one year to relocate to the zone.

Tilley and the board have said the plan will make the atmosphere in tourism areas such as Garapan more "family friendly" while maintaining the presence of adult businesses on the island.

In a series of documents submitted to the Zoning Board, Ada said the La Fiesta property could handle a significant volume of traffic flow and give police and regulators a focal point for enforcement efforts.

To manage the proposed complex, the owners would also retain a firm tasked with overseeing security, according to the documents.

Before any plans for La Fiesta can move forward, however, Tilley noted the board expects to hear from any businesses or residents in the surrounding area. In addition, any potential investors or backers of the plan will have to submit a more detailed and formal proposal, he said.

\$5.1M

From Page 1

The DCM Group, which was hired to repair seven of the eight generators at the main power plant in Lower Base, has been issued a notice of default for falling behind schedule. DCM has said it's having problems getting needed parts.

During a public hearing in the Senate chamber yesterday, senators quizzed Muna about DCM's work and a new \$6-million temporary power contract with the U.K.-based

Aggreko International. The senators said Aggreko's rental generators would have been unnecessary if DCM stuck to the schedule.

Sen. Maria Pangelinan, in particular, raised concern that CUC might end up keeping Aggreko for much longer than its 12-month contract if DCM's problem dragged on. "DCM says they cannot get the parts. But we should have known that before we jumped into a contract with them," she said in the hearing held by the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

To this, Muna replied, "We made a

mistake. We learned from our lesson, and we're not going to do it again."

However, he stood firm on CUC's decision to hire Aggreko despite offers of emergency power from Telesource CNMI, which is running the power system on Tinian. Senators Paul A. Manglona and Jude Hofschneider both said CUC should have given due consideration to Telesource's proposal before it signed a contract with Aggreko.

"I think you're right. We probably could have done it differently. But we're looking at someone who can bring us reliable temporary power at the soonest time possible. I feel we minimized the possibility of errors when we chose a globally recognized company," Muna said.

He also maintained that CUC got a good deal with Aggreko, which will charge the local utility 5 cents per kWh. Aggreko's rate includes the generators, lube oil, personnel costs, and maintenance. Telesource had proposed 7 cents per kWh.

Further, Muna said Telesource's plan to transfer generators from Tinian to Saipan entails more permanence. "We are looking for a temporary solution, not to acquire more assets," he said.

He also argued that it may be in Tin-

ian's interest to keep the engines where they are, given the population growth that is expected to happen on the island with the military buildup and opening of new casinos.

It remains unsure where CUC will get the money to pay Aggreko. Under the contract, CUC must make a partial payment of \$1.5 million before Aggreko ships the containerized generators.

Muna over the weekend has asked the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide the money. MPLT, which invests funds collected from the use of public lands, was scheduled to make a decision Monday evening. Firefighter 2 Anthony Babauta and Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clyde Norita present the CNMl's 20 Hotshot crews that will be deployed today, Tuesday, to California during yesterday's press conference at the DPS central office in Susupe.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NMI 20 Hotshots leave to battle Calif. wildfires

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The CNMI's 20 Hotshot crews will be deployed today, Tuesday, to California to help fight the hundreds of wildfires that are blackening large tracts of the state.

Department of Public Safety commissioner Claudio K. Norita told the media yesterday that they received the activation call on Friday for the CNMI Hotshot team to head for California.

"It's a program that we've been running in the CNMI since 1998." Norita said.

He said the 20 Hotshots from the CNMI will team up with their counterparts from Guam, American Samoa, and Hawaii.

The commissioner said the teams will then proceed either to California or somewhere in Arizona, meet with the national Hotshot crew, then fight the forest fires.

Norita said the U.S. Forest Service has issued the team members red cards, which certify these citizen volunteers and firefighters to fight forest fires in the mainland.

Norita said Firefighter 2 Ton Babauta will serve as the chief for the Hotshots Pacific Team.

Babauta said they will be stationed in McClellan, California, for a week where the crew members will be suited up with all the equipment.

From thereon, Babauta said, they will receive their assignment whether to go either to

RELATED NEWS

A. Samoa firefighters to battle US blazes.

PAGE 4

southern or northern California. Firefighter 2 Clinton Ngeraked will join Babauta in assist-

ing the citizen volunteer mem-

bers of the CNMI Hotshots.

Babauta said their team was made to undergo the basic 32 trainings for a week in April.

The U.S. Forest Service pays for the training, deployment, and salary while the crews are away from the CNMI.

Babauta said they are going to stay in the mainland for 30 days then will be given an opportunity to work throughout the season or until December this year in case there is a vacancy in the other Hotshot teams.

"We're going to be in the front line along with national Hotshots there fighting fires," he said

Tony Manibusan, a member of Saipan's Hotshot crew and leader of one group, said he is confident in the ability of his members.

"I bet they are going to gain a lot of experience out there. These guys that I have selected are probably the top of Saipan's crew and I'm looking forward to this opportunity and actually looking for a career out there," Manibusan said.

In 2004, 20 members of the CNMI Hotshot were also sent to California.

CUC to Senate: Reject rate discount proposal

By AGNES E. DONATO

agnes_donato@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has asked the Senate to reject a bill granting discounts to consumers.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said the \$5.1 million CUC received for the rate credit has been used to pay for fuel in the last two months. Granting the discounts now will worsen CUC's cash flow problem.

"We need time to restructure CUC's finances. If CUC is to implement the credit now, we may not be able to pay for fuel," Muna said in a Senate hearing yesterday.

He said CUC used \$3 million of the rate credit funds in May, and \$2.1 million in June. He noted that, in those months, the CUC rates in effect were insufficient to cover the cost of fuel and operations. The rate

relief funds were used to make up for the difference.

There is a 45 to 60-day gap between the time CUC bills customers and the time the accounts become due. This month, for instance, CUC is still collecting the April billings.

A law, which allowed CUC to double the rates in May 2008, has reprogrammed \$9 million for the rate credit program. The relief proposal, as approved by the House of Representatives, entails taking 30 percent off of residential billings and 10 percent off of commercial billings. The discounts are proposed to apply retroactively beginning May 2008.

Assuming fuel costs remain at their May levels, the \$5 million now with CUC would be enough to pay for the discounts through mid-September 2008.

The measure is awaiting Senate action.





GUALO RAI • MITA TRAVEL, GARAPAN

Sex offenders in NMI told to update files

is notifying all convicted sex offenders in the CNMI to update registration files before July 8, 2008 by 4:30pm at the SOR Office, located at DPS Central Office in Susupe.

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 provides for the use of federal law enforcement resources including the U.S Marshals Service—to assist a state in locating and apprehending noncompliant sex offenders. This Act also makes it a federal offense punishable up to 10 years in prison based upon interstate commerce for sex offenders who have not registered at the jurisdiction they reside and have moved to another state/territory. Any person convicted of a

Public Law 11-104 to register as a sex offender at the Department of Public Safety. Public Law 11-104 mandates DPS, Adult Probation, and the Office of Parole to register, update, photograph, fingerprint, and keep on file all information about these offenders and to share, coordinate, and update other affected law enforcement agencies.

The month of June is the second quarter of the year that the Sex Offender Registry Unit has scheduled these monitoring operations and compliance checks of all offenders. Due to the size of the community of the CNMI, offenders easily change addresses, contact numbers, vehicles and employment status and therefore, the unit deems it necessary to

The Sex Offender Registry Unit sexual crime is required under conduct these operations in order to keep offenders compliant with their registry information.

All offenders who are in viotion documents immediately as lation of Public Law 11-104 are to avoid a year of imprisonment advised to update their registra- and up to \$1,000 in fines.

For further information, contact Officer Tricia Seman at664-9062. **(DPS)**

Man allegedly threatens woman with machete

A man allegedly barged inside a bedroom and threatened to kill with a machete a horrified woman who was with her two minor daughters in San Jose Friday midnight.

A responding police officer arrested Randy R. Dela Cruz, 32, for assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$1,500 cash bail for Dela Cruz's temporary liberty.

A detective stated in his report that on Friday at 12:50am a man contacted police and reported a disturbance at his barracks-type tin house in San Jose.

A responding officer entered the barracks and secured Dela Cruz who was standing in the hallway.

Inside the room, the officer saw the victim sitting on the bed and crying, with her two children—ages 4 and 6—wrapped in her arms.

Dela Cruz was placed under arrest. A crime scene technician seized the machete that he allegedly used to threaten the victim.

The woman told police that she was asleep with her two daughters in bed when the suspect, who was shouting, broke their bedroom door. The victim said she and her daughters jumped up and started screaming in fear.

Dela Cruz allegedly kept shouting at the victim, asking her why she was talking behind his back. He then left the room, went to the kitchen and returned with a machete.

The suspect allegedly raised the machete above his head and yelled at her, "Do you want me to kill you?"

The victim begged the suspect not to hurt them. Dela Cruz left the room and went back to the kitchen. At this time, police arrived.

A witness said he was asleep when he heard somebody shouting and banging in the hallway.

He said he heard a banging on his bedroom door calling for him to come out the room. He could hear the suspect punching a hole on the door.

The witness did not open the door. Dela Cruz allegedly kept punching the door, yelling at him and challenging him to a fight and saying he is not afraid of the police.

The witness got scared so he called the police. He said the banging on the door stopped and he later heard the victim and her children screaming.

The detective's report did not mention the relationship between Dela Cruz and the victim or the witness. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, P&S



Members of the Torres family set up camp across the Century Insurance building in Garapan, Saipan.

Happy campers set for LibDay parade

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com JUNIOR REPORTER

Nearly a week before the annual Liberation Day Parade, several

OPENING DATE: July 1, 2008

Administrator

as mandated by law.

addressed to the following:

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Executive Secretary (Board)

Location: Saipan

NATURE OF WORK: Primary responsibility is to provide office support

services to ensure timely and efficient conduct of business by the

Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission (Board). The

use of independent judgment, initiative and discretion is essential as

the employee is entrusted with confidential records and files. The

incumbent shall utilize standard office equipment plus a computer and

transcribing machine and work under the supervision of the Board and

COMPENSATION: The starting compensation range for this position is

set at Pay Level 29/01, or \$21,506.41 per annum, plus other benefits

OTHERS: Interested individuals may pick up an application and the

complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol

Hill, Saipan. All application packages must be received at the Fund

office no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 16, 2008; applications

will be accepted by e-mail and/or postal mail. Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted. Packages must be marked

"JVA# 08-005 Confidential." Interested applicants must submit their

application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance

E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Mark Aguon, Administrator

Saipan, MP 96950-1247

NMI Retirement Fund

P.O. Box 501247

families have already begun setting up tents along Beach Road, staking out prime spots that will give them an unobstructed view of the July 4 parade.

CLOSING DATE: July 16, 2008

However, the tradition is no longer just a means to reserve the best spot for the Liberation Day parade; it has also become a reason to reunite family members and friends.

That's true for the Torres family, who said the Liberation Day parade is not the only reason why they began camping out; rather, the tradition has also become part of their summer fun.

"It's the kids' vacation right now, so we are having parties for them," said Joanna Torres.

The family does this every year and the practice has become a tradition. "We also did this last year, the same place, the same people, and the same activities," said Torres.

There are approximately 30 members of the family. Five of the Torres families are some of Joanna's siblings, and their spouses and children.

They have been camping out since Tuesday last week and have reserved a decent spot for the parade, right across the Century Insurance Centre in Garapan.

While waiting for July 4, familv members have been busving themselves with leisurely activities such as swimming, barbecuing, partying, or just lying down and staring at the stars. The family also celebrated some of the children's birthdays.



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Council is a private, non-profit corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. The Council is governed by a 13-member Board of Directors that represents a broad cross section of the community.

The Executive Director is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating a wide variety of humanities programming in consultation with the Council's board of directors. Other major duties include supervising a two person staff, administering an annual budget of approximately \$300,000 and coordinating with a wide variety of public and private organizations and the general public to realize the Council's goals and objectives. A detailed description of the Executive Director's duties is available at the Council's office in Kings Plaza in Dandan.

plicants for this position must possess strong leadership, administrative, writing, advance computer and inter-personal skills, the ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment, the ability to prepare and review grant applications and annual budget, an in depth knowledge of the history and cultures of the Northern Mariana Islands, and a working knowledge of history of the Micronesian region. At a minimum applicants must possess an undergraduate degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited postsecondary institution, although a Masters degree is preferred, and five years of experience administering federal program relating to the humanities. The starting salary ranges from \$42,000 to \$45,000 depending on qualifications and experience. The Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Applicants are invited to submit their letter of intent, resume, and the names (with current contact information) of at least three references to Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, P.O. Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950 (no faxes or e-mails, please). Complete application packages must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on July 11, 2008 to be considered. The Council may chose to interview applicants before making a final selection. The Council is an equal opportunity employer.

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JULY 1-6, 2008 **Chivas Life:** Chivas Regal 12 yrs. old 4.5 liter Giveaway/July 4th Come in for details.

Liberation Day Sale

Whole Chicken Fryers 30#

SUNLAND

US Beef Oxtail 10#

Pork Chop "Family Pack"

Beef Spareribs

Beef Shortribs "Choice"

Pork Hocks "Large"

Chicken Wingetts 5#

Sapporo Ichiban THURU

Ramen

Hormel Mary Kitchen Beef Hash 15oz

Hormel orned bee hash

Axxion Foam Plates 125ct



Zee Napkins 360ct



Butane Gas Canister

Charmin Toilet Tissue 24-roll



Royal Umbrella Jasmine Rice 50#



w Arrivat

JAPAN GROCERIES

Marukiyo Rice Crackers "Hot"

\$8900 tin

Yano Lemon Powder

\$299_{/ea.}

ICHIBAN

Takeya Miso Paste 500gr

\$290 /ea.

Sushino Sushi Powder 75gr Katsuo Shiokara 110gr

\$295 /ea.

PRODUCE

Onion



Potatoes



Cabbage



Apple Delicious



Oranges

BEERS

Miller Lite 24/12oz. cans

CS.

Guinness Beer 330ml.



LIQUOR SHOPPE

Chivas Scotch

Jacob's Creek

Merlot 750ml.

\$2700 btl. 12yr 750ml Kahlua \$1700_{(btl.} 700ml.

Stolichnaya Vodka \$1725 750ml.

\$899 /btl.

Jacob's Creek \$**7**99/btl. Shiraz 750ml.

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Pampers \$1699_{/pk.} "Cruisers" Size 6

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Pampers \$625_{/pk.} Refill 160ct.

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ILF to honor A. Samoa's Aumua Amata

WASHINGTON, D.C.—

The International Leadership Foundation, a nonprofit organization that promotes the civic awareness, involvement and effectiveness of the future leaders of the Asian Pacific American community, will present Aumua Amata of American Samoa with it prestigious Visionary Award at its Annual Gala in Washington, D.C. on July 17.

In a letter to Amata, ILF chair Paul Hsu and president Derek Chen wrote, "Your life is an inspiration to us all and we feel your commitment to the Asian

Pacific American community is unparalleled." The ILF leaders took particular note of Amata's service as a member of the President's Advisory Commission



on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

During her term on the PAC-AAPI, Amata served as chairman of the Community Security Subcommittee and also

the Commission to devote a separate chapter to Pacific Islander health needs as part of its landmark report to the President on health care disparities in the nation's AAPI communities.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives leadership staff, she established a databank for APAs and other minorities who were interested in public service in the legislative branch of government.

"I am overwhelmed and humbled," said Amata in accepting ILF's invitation to accept the Visionary Award. "In all of what I've done in government, politics and in community activism, my goal always has

been the same: to be of service

to our people and advance their

Since its founding in California in the 1990s, ILF has established a track record of recognizing individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the APA community, including such distinguished persons as Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, film star Jackie Chan and former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, who is honorary chairman of the ILF board. Amata will have the distinction of being the first Samoan whose contributions have been recognized by ILF.

Each year ILF provides scholarships and organizational support for over 30 APA college students to participate in its Public Affairs Fellowship Program in Washington, DC.

Students are selected who are likely to become leaders in the academic, business, community, professional or public services. Over 500 students have received ILF Fellowships or leadership training.

In their letter of invitation to Amata, Dr. Hsu and Chen explained that annually ILF "recognizes a small number of truly remarkable individuals and organizations to honor at our annual awards dinner." This year ILF also will recognize the public service contributions of Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, California Rep. Mike Honda and the Committee of 100, a Chinese-American civic and advocacy organization.

"Thank you for being a role model for our youth to follow in your footsteps," the ILF leaders told Amata.

For more informational about the International Leadership Foundation, or to attend its Annual Gala on July 17th in Washington, D.C., visit http://www. ileader.org.

Kim, Ok Soon Son P.O. Box 502969 CK Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone No. (670) 235-0476

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change) FCD CN) CIVIL ACTION JO SUNG IL,) NO. 08-0220 Minor Child) NOTICE OF KIM OK SOON SON) HEARING Petitioner(s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 01, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 16th day of May, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan Clerk of Court /s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



July 01, 1999

15 days deportation period gets Senate OK

A legislation reducing to 15 days the time provided to nonresident workers to secure employment on the island passed the Senate yesterday, defeating in effect an initial drastic measure that will seek only three days before they can be deported by the government. Senate Bill 11-150, offered by Sen. Juan P. Tenorio, will amend existing regulations under Public Law 11-6 or the hiring moratorium, which allows guest workers up to 45 days to look for new employer once their job contract expires.

CPA imposes \$1 parking fee at airport

Beginning today, the Commonwealth Ports Authority will be charging \$1 per hour to vehicle owners who will use the parking lot at the Saipan International Airport as part of its revenue generating measure. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said a booth, manned by trained employees of the ports authority, will be set up and operated 24 hours every day. But he said CPA employees are exempt provided that they have the official CPA badge.

US faces shortage of special ed teachers

The United States is facing severe shortage of qualified special education teachers due to high attrition rates, according to a report by the national weekly magazine Education Week. The Education Week reported that special education teachers are frustrated and disillusioned by the job, which comes with more time-consuming duties and legal responsibilities than teaching in other fields - usually without additional pay.

July 01, 2002

4 governors in one week

History happened last Friday but for those more attuned to the political workings of the CNMI, that day went by with hardly a ripple in the political fabric of the Commonwealth. In a span of three days starting Wednesday, the Commonwealth went through several leadership changes, with Friday officially marking the first time ever that somebody from Tinian occupied the highest executive post of the islands.

Tourist visa regs in effect

The regulations governing the issuance of a CNMI's tourist visa or visitor's entry permit is now in effect. These were adopted by the Department of Labor and Immigration as emergency regulations, based on information obtained from the office of acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Jeff Camacho Friday.

CPA tries to put fiscal house in order

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's revenue during the first eight months of Fiscal Year 2002 fell short of its original projection, prodding officials to look at a possible conversion of its Commonwealth Development Authority loan to a grant. CPA officials underscored Friday the need to revisit the agency's annual budget and explore alternatives that would impose additional safety nets to allow the ports authority to stabilize its fiscal status.

July 2003

Leadership open to discussion

Senate majority amenable to tackle minority's demands

The Senate leadership is amenable to the minority members' clamor that their three demands be placed on the session agenda, if this is what it would take to get the wayward senators to show up at the next session. This was essentially the message relayed yesterday by Senate president Paul A. Manglona and Senate vice president Jose M. Dela Cruz in an interview with the media.

Travel ban vs China to be lifted soon

If no new cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome crops up in China, then the CNMI government will lift its travel restriction on people coming from that country by July 11. This was disclosed by Press Secretary Peter Callaghan, who said that, with the World Health Organization removing China from its SARS-affected areas on June 24, the CNMI government is just waiting for the virus's incubation period to end before it lifts its entry ban on travelers from China. However, Taiwan and Toronto are still considered by the WHO as active areas so they are still on the list and the CNMI's travel restrictions still apply to travelers coming from these two areas, Callaghan added.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950 **PERMIT**



INVITATION FOR BID NMHC ITB 08-011

AMENDMENT #01

 ${\it This~ad~is~paid~for~by~NMHC~with~HUD~funds.}$

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX GRANDSTAND PATHWAY, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy Five Dollars (\$75.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$4.05 per hour which took effect on May 25, 2008, as established by Federal law or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 2, 2008, at the proposed project site located near the Ada Gym in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, June 26, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked NMHC-ITB08-011. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than 10:00 a.m., local time Thursday, July 10, 2008. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, July 10, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to HYPERLINK "mailto:procurement@pticom.com" or "blocked::mailto:procurement@pticom.com" procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 10, 2008, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than July 21, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 8:00 a.m., local time, July 22, 2008. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time on July 10, 2008.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project. The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price.

Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the provinging extent feacible" them "to the maximum extent feasible.

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole

Marcie M. Tomokane Acting Chairwoman & Contracting Officer, Procurement & Supply

Herman S. Sablan Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber's monthly meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its general membership meeting this Wednesday, July 2, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Sandcastle. Barry Hirshbein will join the group to provide a Department of Labor update and answer questions about how things are working at the Department during this pre-transition period.

Also, 2008 OIA Island Fellow Debbie Wissel will join the group to briefly talk about the Island Business Link, new webbased business tool.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, meeting fees are \$15 for members, \$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public. (SCC)

Military ID Card visit

This is to inform all active duty military, reservists, veterans and their dependents that the ID Card personnel from Hawaii will be on island from July 14 to 19, 2008. They will be issuing new and renewing military cards. Hours of operations are as follows:

- Monday Friday from 8:30am to 7pm
- Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm

Please adhere to the following schedules:

- Monday Wednesday will be strictly for all E Company dependents.
- Thursday thru Saturday is open to other military personnel.

For more information, contact the Reserve Center at 322-6680. (PR)

CNMI Scholarship Office announcement

Application deadline for all applicants to the Educational Assistance Program: New, ongoing, or returning is July 1. Deadline for supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Application and supporting Documents deadline for PL 14-37 Honors Scholarship Program is June 30.

For more information call 664-4750 or visit www.cnmischolarship.com. (*PR*)

Red Cross Health and Safety Training

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month July 2008:

- Adult CPR July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm
- First Aid July 26, 2008, Saturday, from 12pm to 5pm
- Infant & Child CPR August 9, 2008, Saturday, from 8am to 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is \$30.00 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is \$35.00 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is \$5.00 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. (PR)



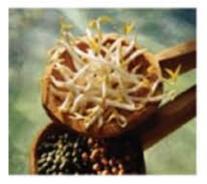
This July at the Hyatt Regency Saipan



"It's Lobster in Miyako"

Experience the taste of juicy lobster in unique style at our Japanese restaurant. Chef Fukada has prepared an artistic line up that will tingle your taste buds.

Lobster Special at Miyako Monday July 7th, 2008 6:00pm - 10:00pm \$100.00 per person Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



"Teppanyaki goes Fusion"

Enjoy great tasting cuisine with the special performance from our Teppanyaki Chef's especially the cheerful Chef Joe Viduya.

Tuesday, July 15th 2008 6:00pm - 10:00pm \$85.00 per person Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



"Kili Cafe and Terrace Fishermen's Wharf"

Kili Cafe & Terrace brings a new line up every Monday for the whole month of July.

A great experience in Seafood specialties, prepared by Chef Habib and the Kili Cafe culinary team.

"Fishermen's Wharf"
Available every Monday for the whole month of July
6:00pm - 10:00pm
\$35.00 per person
Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



"Taste of Roma" at Giovanni's

Enjoy authentic flavors with an exquisite selection of Roman fare passionately created by Chef Gabriele Colombo and the Giovanni's culinary team.

"Taste of Roma" set menu and a-la-carte selections are available from July 7th till July 30th 6:00pm - 10:00pm Club at the Hyatt cards welcome



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Club at the Hyatt is a loyalty program perfect for connoisseurs of great food with a touch of luxury in their lives.

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Opinion



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> Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

> > MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What the GIs deserve

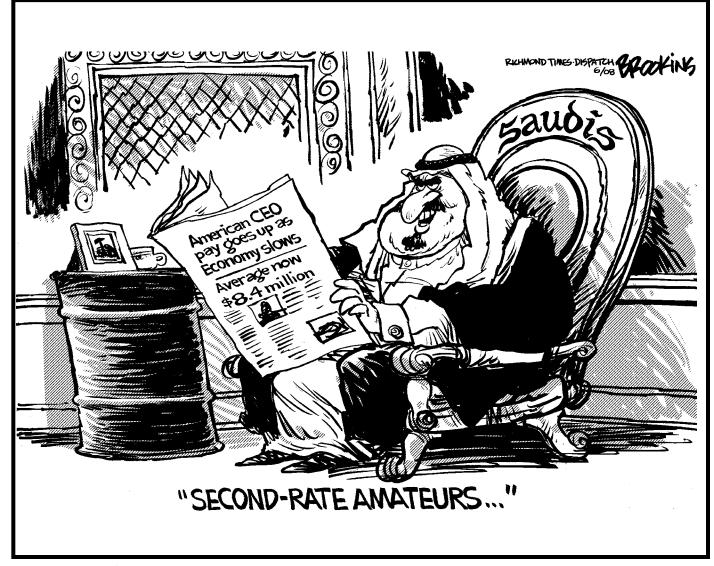
So it is a testament to the tenacity of Sen. James Webb, D-Va., and the justice of his cause that Congress has enacted a new GI Bill for war veterans. The freshman senator's ability to work across party lines means that the men and women who risk their lives for America's well-being will, in return, get expanded education benefits, along with opportunities for better futures.

The expansion of education benefits for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans is part of the \$257.5 billion emergency spending bill that passed the Senate on Thursday. The House gave its approval earlier, and President Bush is expected to sign it this week. The timing is fitting, considering that 64 years ago last Sunday, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law the original GI Bill, which made a college education affordable for millions of World War II veterans. Today's warriors are equally deserving, but the system, designed for a peacetime military, has not kept pace with the costs of college. Mr. Webb's bill—The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act—is true to the original in providing full tuition, housing and living costs.

The price tag of the program is not cheap—an estimated \$62 billion over 10 years. While Mr. Webb is right that taking care of veterans must be considered a cost of war, it's irresponsible that Congress and the White House refused to come up with money to pay for it. To get Republican support for the measure, House leaders agreed to drop what would have been a perfectly reasonable tax on affluent Americans. So the country is left with yet another unfunded entitlement program. A modification of the bill to allow some educational benefits to be transferred to immediate family members was a sensible solution to administration concerns about the bill's impact on service retention, but it, too, added to the unfunded costs.

The measure was a mere glint in the eye when Mr. Webb introduced it on his first day in office 18 months ago. It wasn't given much of a chance of advancing. Enlisting Republicans and fellow veterans such as Sens. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., and John W. Warner, R-Va., was important. In the end, Mr. Webb had lined up 58 co-sponsors in the Senate and 302 in the House. Also key was gaining the solid support of all the major veterans groups. No doubt Mr. Webb's background as former Navy secretary helped in dealing with Pentagon concerns. But what served him best was his justifiable outrage at how a generation of veterans was being shortchanged.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



A-ten-hut

Butt out

irst, I will tell you that I don't smoke. No one in my family smokes. I don't plan on taking it up. Next, I will tell you that trying to legislate the personal choice of whether to take the risks involved in smoking is futile and it is intrusive and it won't curb smoking, it will only curb business and piss people off. Making laws that tell people what they can inhale and what they can't, when or where they can inhale it and in whose presence they may inhale it is a window dressing law made to try and garner a few votes from the virulent non-smoking set. They forget it will lose as many or more votes from those who do smoke.

If questionable science attributing all kinds of terrible things to secondhand smoke can be used to force otherwise law-abiding citizens to not light up, then I wonder just what else is on the horizon. Will the crazed nanny government ban mayonnaise? Why not? That level of fat has been shown to be bad for your health. What about those french fries and the great burgers found here? They could be a contributor to diabetes, so will they be banned? What about the foods found at just about every local barbecue? Will parties and rosaries be legislated out of existence because they are "bad" for us according to the Legislature?

What about other harmful practices? People die every day from drowning, so should they make laws forbidding you to enter the water? Why not? Driving kills plenty of people. Will they have us all walking so as to protect us from ourselves? People fall and hurt themselves and others, should our lawmakers draft legislation banning all ladders? Stairs? Elevators? Trees? You get the point. Attempting to legislate your complete safety is impossible and directly inhibits your constitutional right to pursue happiness as you see it.

So if you don't like secondhand smoke, vote with your feet. Vote with your wallet by not patronizing those places that allow people to smoke or not as they choose. If you prefer a place that forbids smoking, then by all means go there. If you prefer a place that let's you choose, then give them your business. But do not expect the Legislature to turn those business owners and other customers into slaves to your particular desires. This is a question that should be answered by business owners and by customers, not by bureaucrats, proselytizers and lawmakers.

Washington speaks

In an informal interview, our Washington Representative, Pete A. Tenorio, said the current attempt to designate a no-take monument in the CNMI's northernmost three islands will die, as it requires the actual support of the local community and its government, which it does not have.

Relating what the White House Director of Ocean and Coastal Policy, Dr. Gerhard Kuska, told him, Pete A. claims neither the

SOUR GRAPES By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.



President nor his administrative folks have received the CNMI Legislative Resolution about not wanting the monument designated without prior locally approved negotiation. He claims further that no one in DC has received the letter penned by Governor Fitial flatly refusing the "offer" proffered by Pew and its local champions. This is surprising news. The dog ate it?

Mr. Kuska advises both the Legislature and the Governor to resubmit their responses to President Bush via fax, email or through his (Pete A.'s) office to make sure they are received this time. Once the "no thanks" letter and the legislative resolution are received, the motion to designate a monument in the CNMI will "die immediately," says Mr. Tenorio.

Pete A. goes on to say, "To me, there is no doubt that the White House will not move on the matter unless and until our government requests for such exchange." So it appears that a formal request would need to be given. Since that is not likely to happen, perhaps the Pew-induced mini-frenzy and the surrounding controversy will sink, for good or for ill, peacefully into the western sunset. Or not, depending on how much cash Pew is willing to throw at it.

Sergeant CUC?

While chatting about a variety of topics with friends at lunch the other day an interesting idea came up. Why not ask the U.S. military to assist us in our hour of need, electrically speaking. The idea is not as far-fetched as it sounds. If the U.S., so eager to take over immigration and labor to our economy's detriment, would help us as they help other places around the globe, we might have our answer to reliable electric power until a new power plant can be built.*

The military owns barges with complete "plug in" powerhouses capable of supplying all the electricity we need here on Saipan. They offer aid to other places with disasters and power outage emergencies, why not us? If our citizens can be cannon fodder for U.S. wars, if aid can be sent to completely foreign countries in need then why would they not directly help a Commonwealth/colony that is politically aligned with them?

If we ask, they might just be willing to help out. Hey there! Mr. General Sir, Mr. Admiral Sir, send us a barge or two, please. We'll

See A-TEN-HUT on Page 11

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Autism once more

est Lafayette, Indiana, home of the Boilermakers, Purdue University's campus north of Indianapolis a couple of hours drive from Chicago, was where I rendezvoused with my two autistic children and their mother. The younger child, a son who is 13, is very fond of Thomas the train and other train characters in animated videos. The older child, a daughter who will be 16 this year, likes to draw. Her handiwork had been used as a cover for her school's yearbook. At two, she was doing Picasso-quality art, and drawing floor designs that would make my Urdu-speaking cousins proud. Both are mentally alert and intellectually competent, but their communication skills are very elementary, and their social skills infantile.

Purdue University, a land grant institution to teach agriculture and machine shop, evolved into a premier biochemical-industrial-technological seat of learning, and just for the mascot alone, it was the ideal place to meet my autistic children. Also, my eldest daughter, their half-sister who lives in Chicago, has a 6-month-old son who has yet to meet his young uncle and auntie. The reunion in Lafayette was, thus, multifaceted. I came from halfway around the world to meet them, while everyone else converged from Chicago in the west and Dublin, Ohio, in the east to meet each other.

In the end, we never saw the boilermaker, nor got around to visiting the University campus. Nor did plans to take everyone shopping at the various malls around the city materialize. The children, both now with their own laptops, were quite happy to sequester themselves in their own room. They were content to habituate their self-contained universes. The boy has mastered surfing the Internet and can download from YouTube clips of videos of children's commercial and homemade programs. He can spend a whole day just surfing, and entertaining himself in the process, oblivious to anything else happening around him, until he gets hungry or needs to attend to his toilet. Happily, occasional forays to the swimming pool provided social time.

Like her brother, autistic daughter has become computer savvy as well. Where before her drawings were by hand, now they are computer generated. Both attend a Charter school in Dublin, Ohio, where half of the students are on Special Education programs and the other half are mainstream students. It is a measure of their mother's efficacy in advocacy that they would qualify to attend a pro-

gram costing \$48K per child per annum on scholarship. Needless to say, their mother, erstwhile a program officer of the U.S. Agency for International Development, has since retired in order to be a 24/7 custodial parent.

Each child being one out of every 166 persons, according to CDC statistics, they are unlikely ever to be self-sufficient and therefore, will require structures beyond their childhood dependencies. They can remain in school until they are 22, if they qualify, otherwise the social and economic net that current public service offers is, at best, fuzzy. Estranged parents obviously are not the most helpful enablers under these circumstances. My children call me "Mr. Father"!

There are three comments on this retrospective on autism. (My previous involvement with PACA, Parents' Association Concerned with Autism, and STaRPO, Saipan, Tinian and Rota Parent Organization, two presently non-active organizations whose role and function has since been superseded by the Saipan Autism Society, generated articles that have already seen print in our island dailies.)

First is the cruciality of early identification. Parent(s) is (are) key! No one knows a child better than his/her parents. There are lists of development milestones, beginning at four months that one can get from medical clinics and health professionals, even PSS' special education program and parent can use as a checklist. But even absence of such list, a parent's intuition is to be trusted. Many instances, a parent will notice that there is something unusual about Maria or Juan but would neither verbalize his/her concern nor seek validation of their intuition since the concern may just be based on a "feeling" rather than an objectively observable fact. Also, the social stigma that goes with having a child with "special" qualities makes denial, at worst, procrastination, at best, a parent's preferred choice.

Regardless of whether a child is deemed "normal or abnormal," parents need to conduct periodic assessments during the first 18 months of early childhood development. Time is of the essence. Early intervention translates to increased prospects of ensuring a child's repertoire of skills, whether these interventions be chemical, behavioral, or psychological. In autism, gluten and lactose intolerance has proven to be a critical factor in children's erratic behavior; chemical input into a child's metabolic processes has been known to affect a significant few, and even immunization shots has come

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



under close scrutiny for having been suspected in inducing autistic qualities. Vigilance can never be overrated.

- Second is the identification of local resources to meet the family's own requirements. Parents can be alert in networking with all kinds of early childhood development groups, and avail of training on the delivery of services, as well as skills in advocating for their own children. Saipan is lucky to have an aggressive NMPASI. Call them.
- Lastly, parents must beware of the danger of kindergarchy, the temptation to focus parents' full attention and resources totally on the child(ren), particularly the eldest as has happened in the West in the last 30 years, and to the only child as has occurred in China for the last 20, and to those needing special attention, as has happened to many families, mine included, in the last 10.

We bewail the dominance of patriarchy, and rightly so. Many traditions still favor the man in the family over other members. In others, the matriarchy has emasculated needed traits of masculinity, and though the feminization of many practices is needed, one must be careful that we do not forget, indeed, "women hold up half of the sky." It is the terror of the tyranny of the singularly self-centered child that marks our time, and the autism society and other child-centered concerns must be careful to keep in mind that the care of the caregiver is just as important as the care for the children who needs to be cared for.

It was a somber occasion to leave Lafayette, and though I suspect that there was more sentiment underneath the seeming dryness of the children's farewell, still, to be valedictoried with, "Good-bye, Mr. Father," leaves an empty feeling that is familiar to many parents of children with autism.

Letter to the Editor

The mess at CUC

Editor's Note: The following letter is being published as a series due to its length.

(First of a five-part series)

CUC is on the verge of financial collapse and operational failure. CUC's failures reflect poor stewardship of a utility that has, deliberately or not, been run to the ground. After long deliberation, I decided that it is time that I should publicly contribute toward helping CUC reverse course and become an entity that the people of the Northern Marianas can be proud of.

Let me make this clear: Despite numerous rumors, I have no plans to return to CUC to clean up the incredible mess. My ability to manage and develop CUC into a productive and responsive entity before my retirement is a matter of public record. As a resident, it is my interest that CUC delivers essential and affordable utility services. Like all consumers, I am also suffering from the effect of high power tariffs and constant outages on top of a collapsing economy. Also, Tony Muña is my nephew. He is a good accountant and perhaps a good manager. But to do an effective job, Mr. Muna needs to understand the technicalities of power generation, and I have concerns that he has not been given truthful advice.

I am concerned that CUC will execute contractual mistakes with Aggreko for the contract with temporary power. A source has provided a copy for my review and comments. I want to make these comments public so that our utility will not enter into another disastrous contractual mistake that will further burden the people of the Commonwealth.

The contract with Aggreko specifies a cap of 0.27 liters per kWh produced. Assuming that this is the level of fuel efficiency, at cur-

rent price of \$4.20 per gallon, the fuel consumption translates to about 30 cents per kWh. This, plus the rental charge of 5 cents, means that the cost to CUC should be at no more than 35 cents per kWh. However, under the contract, CUC can only penalize Aggreko at a maximum cap equivalent to 5 percent of the monthly contract value. Another clause in the same contract clearly warns CUC that if the mode of operation is changed, then Aggreko reserves the right to adjust the fuel consumption figure. So, if Aggreko uses more fuel, the risk to Aggreko is only a maximum penalty of \$18,000 per month, while under the original contract it was a monthly sum of \$360,000.

Let's assume Aggreko's fuel usage is similar to other rental machines in the industry. It may be likely that the fuel consumption will jump to at least .30 liter per kWh. On a monthly basis, at 10MW, this translates to additional fuel consumption of over \$221,000. But the penalty cap on Aggreko is only \$18,000. Who gets to pay the difference? CUC of course, and they will pass it either to the consumers, or sock it to the taxpayers. Well, if CUC and Aggreko agrees to unlimited penalty limit for fuel consumption above 0.27 liter per gallon, then Aggreko will have the incentive to ensure that the performance guarantee will be delivered. If the penalty cap is not removed, we are in for some more serious problems.

CUC must understand that Aggreko uses high-speed engines running at 1,800 rpm, most likely utilizing Cummins KTA50G3 engines. The heat rate specified by the manufacturer for these engines at ideal conditions—brand new running in base load mode—could achieve 0.27 liters per kWh. So has CUC done its due diligence? Has CUC specified in the contract that Aggreko must provide new machines capable of such fuel efficiency? What if Aggreko brings in rebuilt or old rental units where the fuel efficiency are lower? Did CUC question the specific fuel consumption of each engine to be based on site conditions? What is the electrical efficiency of each engine? When were

these engines manufactured and what models are involved? The very fact that the contract mentions nothing of the engine specification and that the fuel consumption guarantee is meaningless raises strong questions about CUC's understanding of power generation.

The Aggreko contract specifies that CUC will be responsible for used oil and filter disposal. Also, the contract requires that CUC provide six qualified personnel to assist in the operations of the Aggreko units. There are also site preparation costs that CUC must bear. These cost factors, including the interests on the deposits and advance payments, are not disclosed to the legislators in CUC's submission. Hence, the costs are well under-estimated.

The contract also specifies that the standby cost of 3.5 per kWh shall be imposed in the event that CUC does not require the Aggreko engines to produce power. The contract for Aggreko is for a period of 12 months. Well, it certainly means that CUC has absolutely no confidence that the repairs at Power Plant 1 will completed in the next 12 months. If DCM can complete the rehabilitation before June of next year, why should CUC enter into a one-year contract for Aggreko's temporary units? Well, if we give DCM the benefit of the doubt, say another 90 days (i.e., more than double their allotted time) to complete all repairs, then we will most likely end up with a billing for over \$12,600 per day for Aggreko, sir ply for parking their engines at Lower Base. The Aggreko contract specifies that CUC must pay for the entire 12 months of service even if there is no need for the Aggreko engines. So, who will bear the burden of the idle machines costing us \$12,600 per month for six months at \$75,600?

To be continued.

Ramon S. Guerrero

As Perdido, Saipan

A-TEN-HUT

From Page 10

have the hook up ready by the time you get here. We only need about 50 megawatts to get us by. For less than the cost of a single tank or plane you can gain the gratitude of over 50 thousand people.

Besides, it would be a good place to open a recruiting office.

■ For a discussion of IPPs and possible new power plants see Dr. Arkle's excellent overview letter at http://www.saipantribune.com/newsstory.aspx?newsID=81266&cat=15 in which he describes several alternatives.

Quote of the week: Of all tyrannies a tyranny exercised for the good of its victim may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated, but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.

—C.S. Lewis. (1898 – 1963)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly sunny with scattered showers in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon. East winds 10 to 15 mph

▲89° ▼78°



Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.

▼79° ▲88°



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

▼78°

▲87°



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

▲88° ▼78



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.

▲87°

▼78°

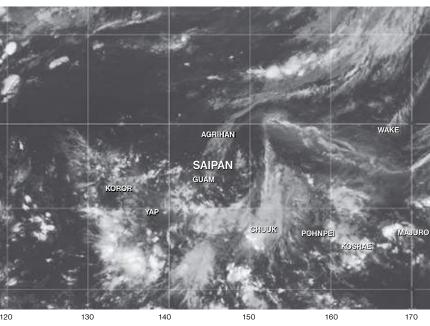
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	A 86	₩77
	, ,		
Palau	Thunderstorms	№ 85	V //
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	≜ 88	▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 71
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 87	▼77
Maiuro	Thunderstorms	83	▼ 76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲ 57	▼52
Beijing	Thunderstorms	≜ 83	▼ 72
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲ 88	▼ 80
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84	▼ 75
London	Cloudy	▲ 79	₹59
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	≜ 86	▼ 63
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	≜ 88	₹78
Melbourne	Windy	▲ 58	▼ 49
Miami	Thundershowers	88	₹76
New York	Thundershowers	5 ▲79	▼ 64
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 68
Paris	Sunny	▲ 84	▼ 68
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 76	▼69
Rome	Showers	≜ 88	▼ 66
Salem	Mostly Sunny	≜ 83	▼57
San Francisco	Cloudy	≜ 68	▼ 56
Seoul	Cloudy	≜ 88	▼68
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 76	▼ 65
Washington, [OC Cloudy	8 2	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Upper-level divergence is enhancing a surface trough tying into a weak circulation centered at 1N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring between the equator and 9N from 133E to 139E. This area includes Palau. A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from 1N137E to 11N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along the trough axis south of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 1N142E to 5N146E. Similar conditions also occurring within 125 miles of a line from 7N143E to 10N156E. This second area includes Chuuk. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 175 miles of a line from 9N170E to 6N165E to 6N171E. Scattered showers are also occurring within 50 miles of 11N163E.

Tides							
Saipan Harbor							
4:23AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet					
12:10AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet					
7:35PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet					

Sunrise/Sunset						
Today	5:50AM	6:51 PM	Too			
Wednesday	5:51AM	6:51 PM	We			
Thursday	5:51AM	6:51 PM	Th			
Friday	5:51AM	6:52 PM	Fri			
Saturday	5:52AM	6:52 PM	Sa			

Mooi	nrise/Moo	nset
Today	3:22AM	4:59PM
Wednesday	4:27AM	6:06PM
Thursday	5:34AM	7:09PM
Friday	6:42AM	8:04PM
Saturday	7:46AM	8:53PM

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- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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\Box	EPAR	TUR	ES		ARE	RIVAL	8
	n-Rota	ПОЛІ	_0	Rota-S		111/-13	
CO 9313		9:05am	3,4,7		11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Saipa	n-Guan	1		Guam	-Saipaı	n	
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota	CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Ro
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily	CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Saipa	n-Narit	а		Narita	-Saipa	n	
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via	NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
			Nagoya	NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily				Nagoya
Saipa	n-Osak	а		Osaka	-Saipa	n	
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Saipa	n-Nago	ya		Nagoy	a-Saip	an	
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6	
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3	

Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap
			and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
	8:25am		
	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6

Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 **Busan-Saipan** OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7 **Manila-Guam** CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2.7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7 **Guanzhou-Saipan** CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5

Hongkong-Guam

Rota-Guam

CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5

CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3.4.7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China: NW: Northwest: JO: Japan Airlines: OZ: Asiana: MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency	Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-Re FRE 100 Rota-Sai	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 113 FRE 115 FRE 117	11:40am 1:00pm 2:30pm	11:50am 1:10pm 2:40pm	Daily Daily Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119 FRE 121	4:00pm 4:40pm	4:10pm 4:50pm	Daily Daily
Saipan-F FRE 200 Rota-Gu	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 * FRE 125 *	5:40pm 6:00pm	5:50pm 6:10pm	Daily Daily Daily
FRE 200 Guam-Re	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Sa			ng
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	flights to	Rota or	Guam**	
Rota-Sai	pan			FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Saipan-F				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Rota-Gu		7.45	D :1	FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Saipan-T		0.55	Delle	FRE 114	12:00pm		Daily
FRE 101 FRE 103 FRE 105 FRE 107 FRE 109* FRE 111*	6:45am 7:30am 8:00am 8:40am 9:10am 10:45am	6:55am 7:40am 8:10am 8:50am 9:20am 10:55am	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily	FRE 116 FRE 118 FRE 120** FRE 122** FRE 124 FRE 126	1:30pm 2:50pm 4:20pm 5:00pm 6:05pm 6:20pm	1:40pm 3:00pm 4:30pm 5:10pm 6:15pm 6:30pm	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008 **13**

Business

Stimulus checks send incomes soaring

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP ECONOMICS WRITER

ASIAN MARKETS

HONG KONG

22.131.64

TOKYO

13,481.38

MANILA 2,459.98

SEOUL

AUSTRALIA

5,332.900

JAKARTA

,339.2729 Up 7.158 (+0.31%)

K. LUMPUR

1,190.54 Down 13.35 (-1.11%)

SINGAPORE

BANGKOK

771.71

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

11.346.51

-106.91

NASDAQ

2,315.63

0.00

S&P

1,278.38

0.00

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of economic stimulus payments sent after-tax U.S. incomes surging in May by the largest amount since a similar recessionfighting effort by President Gerald Ford 33 years ago.

All the extra money helped to push consumer spending up by the biggest amount in six months, but economists warned the boost would likely prove short-lived given all the other problems now facing consumers.

The Commerce Department reported Friday that after-tax disposable incomes jumped by

5.7 percent in May, the biggest one-month gain since a 6.3 percent increase in May 1975 when Ford was president. He was fighting a recession that year with a program to mail individual taxpayers \$50 checks.

This time around, individual payments range from \$300 to \$600 with couples getting up to \$1,200. In all, \$48.1 billion in rebate payments were made in May and through this week, the government announced Friday, payments total \$78.3 billion—three-fourths of the \$106.7 billion scheduled to be paid to 130 million households. The payments are to be completed by mid-July.

Bolstered by the big 5.7 percent surge in after-tax incomes, consumer spending rose by 0.8 percent last month, the best showing since November. Even after removing the effects of higher gasoline and other products, inflation-adjusted spending rose by a solid 0.4 percent, the best perfor-

mance since last August.

Since consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity, analysts said the big jump in May should guarantee a positive reading for overall economic output in the current April-June quarter of around 1.25 percent to 1.5 per-

cent, up from 1 percent growth in the January-March quarter.

Growth at that level is also expected in the third quarter, but analysts said the fourth quarter of this year and first quarter of next year could well sag and even turn negative as the effects of the stimulus payments wear off.



In this May 8, 2008 file photo, shoppers load up at Costco in Mountain View, Calif.

Wall Street to begin July on shaky ground

NEW YORK (AP)—The was behind them in January, vear is nearly halfway over, and Wall Street appears to be on even shakier ground than when it began 2008. And this shortened week ahead of the Fourth of July holiday is unlikely to bring the market enough proof that the economic climate is improving.

The Dow Jones industrial average is down more than 14 percent for the year and has given up all the gains it made since September 2006.

Back in January, investors knew there was potential for the price of oil, which was on the verge of \$100 a barrel, to keep rising, but most didn't predict crude would surpass \$140 a barrel. Economists figured that home prices had further to fall, but no one was sure how much. And when banks said the worst of the credit crunch

and then again in April, traders believed them.

Now, all the angst that has upended the stock market over the past year is back and more intense than ever. The main reason is that there is no historical precedent for what's happening in either the energy or credit markets.

"Take the models, throw them in the trash," said David Kotok, chief investment officer of Cumberland Advisors. "Stocks do not like uncertainty, and they've got plenty of it."

It's possible that Wall Street is reaching its bottom, but investors—who been burned several times already—do not want to make that bet until they see clear, positive signs that both inflation and economic growth are under control.

Days of oversize airline carry-ons are limited

PHOENIX (AP)—Admit it. That chunky carry-on bag of yours would never fit into the sample box displayed outside the airport gate.

Don't expect that bag to get a free ride for long.

Checked bags are now a moneymaker for US Airways, American Airlines and United Airlines, and officials say they're going to keep a closer watch on how much you take on board as they begin their new baggage fees.

"We're planning on having extra staff where possible, especially at peak times at busy airports," US Airways spokesman Morgan Durrant said.

The airlines point out that the carry-on policy came from the Federal Aviation Administration, not the industry, and they have an obligation to keep peo-



A woman waits in line with luggage to check in for an American Airlines flight at Reagan National Airport in Arlington, Va., on June 14, 2008.

ple from sneaking bulky bags onto planes to avoid fees. Not only is it unfair to the honest, fee-paying traveler, they say, but it would also overload the not used to checking bags—is overhead bins and force gate going to have to start followcrews to delay takeoffs while ing the rules.

they checked excess bags.

But the added scrutiny means something else as well. Every passenger—even those

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart to revamp logo at its US stores

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The familiar logo of the world's largest retailer is getting a makeover. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Sunday the company will begin replacing logos on the front of its U.S. stores with a new design beginning this fall. Wal-Mart spokesman Kevin Gardner said the change would reflect changes customers already have seen in some store signs and advertisements. The Wall Street Journal reported Saturday that the new look would include eliminating the hyphen in the company's name, now shown as a star at its more than 3,600 U.S. stores. The new logo would show company's name in white letters on an orange background, followed by a small starburst, the Journal reported, based on an artist's rendering filed with planning officials in Memphis, Tenn.

Lakshmi Mittal joins Goldman Sachs board

NEW YORK (AP)—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. said Sunday that billionaire steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal has been elected as an independent director at the world's largest investment bank. Mittal, who is chairman and chief executive of the world's largest steel producer, ArcelorMittal SA, joined Goldman Sachs' 13-member board Saturday and will serve on its Audit, Compensation and Corporate Governance and Nominating committees. Mittal founded Mittal Steel Co. in 1976 and served as CEO of Mittal Steel until 2006, when the company acquired Arcelor SA to form Arcelor Mittal. Mittal also serves as a director of Airbus maker European Aeronautic Defence & Space NV and ICICI Bank Ltd. of India.

Newspapers, reeling from slumping ads, slash jobs

NEW YORK (AP)—Even for an industry awash in bad news, the newspaper business went through one of its most severe retrenchments in recent memory last week.

Half a dozen newspapers said they would slash payrolls, one said it would outsource all its printing, and Tribune Co., one of the biggest publishers in the country, said it might sell its iconic headquarters tower in Chicago and the building that houses the Los Angeles Times.

The increasingly rapid and broad decline in the newspaper business in recent months has surprised even the most pessimistic financial analysts, many of whom say it's too hard to tell how far the slump will go.

"They're in survival mode now," said Mike Simonton, a media analyst at Fitch Ratings, a credit analysis agency.

'We had very grim expectations for the sector," Simonton said, and publishers have either met or surpassed his estimates for how bad the results would be.

Last week alone, deep staff cuts were announced at The Hartford Courant and The (Baltimore) Sun—two Tribune

papers—as well as at the Daytona Beach-Journal, while The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press said they hoped to reduce the head count in their joint operations by 7 percent through buyouts. The Boston Herald said up to 160 employees would be laid off as it outsourced its printing operations, and in a memo explaining the terms of its job security pledge, the Star-Ledger in Newark, N.J., said it is operating in the red. The week before, McClatchy Co. said companywide staff cuts of 10 percent were coming.

MONEY MARKET Australian Dollar 1.0362 **British Pound** 0.5013

Canadian Dollar

Chinese Renmbi

1.0077

6.8558

Euro 0.633 7.7997 Indian Rupee 42.935 Indonesian Rupiah 9227.5 105.57 Japanese Yen Malaysian Ringgit 3.2675 **New Zealand Dollar** 1.3084 Philippine Peso 44.83

Singapore Dollar 1.3606 South Korean Won 1046.3 1.0172

33.535

Swiss Franc 30.357 Taiwan Dollar

In U.S. dollar terms

Thailand Baht

Source: Associated Press

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Bear mauls teen during 24-hour bike race in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Anchorage police say a teenage girl taking part in a 24-hour bike race was severely injured after a grizzly bear attack. The girl was riding early Sunday on a park trail when attacked. She used her cell phone to call 911 but was unable to communicate. Another biker found the mauled girl around 1:30 a.m. and called police. Medics were escorted by officers with shotguns into the dark woods to retrieve the girl.

New Wash. law bans hand-held phones while driving

SEATTLE (AP)—Driving with one hand on the wheel and the other on a cell phone is no longer an option for Washington state drivers. On Tuesday, they join more than 28 million others nationwide who have to hang up their cell phones or use hands-free devices. Violators can face a \$124 ticket. California and Washington are just the latest states to enact laws that prohibit the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. Both state permit hands-free devices. This past year, 22 state legislatures considered similar laws, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. A handful of states—like New York and New Jersey—already have laws in place. But traffic-safety advocates say the new laws will have little impact.

Officer killed by suspected drunk driver

HOUSTON (AP)—A car slammed into two police officers working traffic control at a construction site early Sunday, killing one and seriously injuring the other, authorities said. The car crashed through barricades, plowed into two of the three officers at the construction site on the Katy Freeway and tore the driver's side door off a patrol car, police said. "There did not appear to be any braking on the part of the driver," Capt. Bruce Williams said. The driver was arrested but there were no immediate charges. Police said the driver's demeanor at the scene led them to believe he was intoxicated. At one point, they said, he was laughing at the officers.

Plane crashes in Alabama after takeoff, killing 4

JASPER, Ala. (AP)—An Alabama sheriff says four people have died after a small plane crashed shortly after takeoff about 40 miles north of Birmingham. Walker County Sheriff Mark Tirey identified three victims as car dealer Bobby Crump, his wife, Jan, and their son, Matthew, a University of Alabama student. The fourth victim was a family friend whose name has not been released. Authorities don't know what caused the crash. Tirey says the plane was bound for the Alabama coast it went down about 8 a.m. Sunday in a wooded area not far from the Walker County Airport in Jasper. According to Federal Aviation Administration records, the plane was a twin-engine Beechcraft BE-55. Crump was a licensed pilot.

NYC keeps the cannoli but drops the trans fats

NEW YORK (AP)—Making cannoli is serious business in New York. It's a dessert so tempting that even a hit man in the "Godfather" couldn't leave a box behind. But even the most respected chefs of this and other pastries are being ordered to make changes by Tuesday—the day New York's trans fat ban takes full effect. New York is the first American city to adopt such a stringent rule. Starting this week, the ban extends to almost all prepared food in restaurants, bakeries, cafeterias, salad bars and food carts. There will be a three-month grace period before big fines are slapped on violators. The artery-clogging substance was first banned from cooking oils last year.

McCain meets with evangelist Billy Graham and son

MONTREAT, N.C. (AP)—John McCain met Sunday with evangelist Billy Graham and his son, Franklin, at the family's mountaintop retreat. The Republican presidential candidate, who is actively courting religious voters and trying to reassure skeptical conservatives, visited privately with the Grahams on the grounds of Little Piney Cove in the Blue Ridge Mountains in western North Carolina. "We had a very excellent conversation. I appreciated the opportunity to visit with them," McCain said after the 45-minute meeting. McCain's visit to North Carolina was his first sit-down with Billy Graham, 89, and with Franklin Graham, although McCain and the elder Graham are acquainted. McCain's father and Billy Graham also knew each other.

6 die as medical choppers collide in Ariz.

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)— Two medical helicopters collided Sunday about a half-mile from a northern Arizona hospital, killing six people and critically injuring a nurse, a federal official said. Two emergency workers on the ground were injured after the crash.

The helicopters crashed on a forested hill east of Flagstaff Medical Center and a few hundred yards away from a neighborhood, which was spared falling debris. "We were very lucky it was south of a residential area," said police spokesman Sgt. Tom Boughner, who, like other officials, was unable to provide an

crash.

An explosion on one of the aircraft after the crash injured two emergency workers who arrived with a ground ambulance company. They suffered minor burns, but their injuries were not life-threatening. The crashed also sparked a 10-acre brush fire that was contained.

Lawrence Garduno, who lives about a half mile from the crash, said he heard a loud boom that rattled the windows. He drove toward the hospital and stopped to see the burning wreckage. "It kind of scares me," Garduno

account of what preceded the said. "If this had happened a half mile closer, it could have fallen on our house.'

> One of the helicopters was operated by Air Methods out of Englewood, Colo., and the other was from Classic Helicopters of Woods Cross, Utah. Both aircraft were Bell 407 models, said Ian Gregor, a spokesman with the Federal Aviation Administration.

> Three people on the Air Methods aircraft, including the patient, died. On the Classic helicopter, the pilot, paramedic and patient all died. A flight nurse on the Classic helicopter was in critical condition at Flagstaff Medical

Center.

"It's just a very unfortunate tragedy," said Matt Stein, a program director and lead pilot with Classic Helicopters subsidiary Classic Lifeguard Aeromedical Services in Page, Ariz.

Stein said his company's crew was landing at Flagstaff Medical Center carrying a patient with a medical emergency from the Grand Canyon's South Rim.

'We've been in business 20 years, and these are the first fatalities we've experienced," Stein said. "They were all heroes. They were out doing a great service for their communities."

Inundated towns along river ponder their futures



In this file photo taken Monday, June 23, 2008, floodwater from the Mississippi River surrounds a small shed behind a house in Foley, Mo

FOLEY, Mo. (AP)—Once the Mississippi River starts to recede this week from another great flood, the tiny river towns that dot its banks in Missouri and Illinois will once again face the question: return and rebuild, or relocate?

It's a tough choice in places like Foley, a hamlet of fewer than 300 people an hour's drive northwest of St. Louis. Normally, the Big Muddy swims by at a comfortable distance. But for the second time in 15 years, a wet winter

bleeding into a wet spring pushed the river well past its banks, causing a summer flood that swamped dozens of low-lying houses and forced residents to flee.

Barring any major storms, the

Louis on Monday and Cape Girardeau in southeastern Missouri on Wednesday.

Cape Girardeau is expected to see a crest of 42.5 feet, well above the flood stage of 32 feet. At that level, some residents will have to leave and thousands of acres of farmland will be flooded, the National Weather Service said.

With the river still running high, the shock and pain of the flood make it hard to think about whether to leave, said Foley Mayor Bill Thornhill. But in a town where no one is rich or a stranger, economics and a strong sense of belonging are prompting most to say they'll stay.

"Why live here? Maybe people shouldn't live in Kansas because of the tornadoes," said Gary Madaus, 44, who moved to Foley from California after living much of his life in the Mojave Desert. "Some people don't have choices. You have to go where you can make the mortgage payments."

Lifelong resident Ronald Davis, 40, who owns a brick business, said only the latest arrivals to town might be scared off by the flood. Abandon Foley? "That's never going to happen," he said.

Firefighters in stalemate against California blazes

Firefighters in Northern Califorous conditions would not relent anytime soon.

No new major fires had broken out by Sunday morning as fire crews inched closer to getting some of the largest blazes surrounded, according to the state Office of Emergency Services.

But a "red flag warning" meaning the most extreme fire danger—was still in effect for Northern California until 5 a.m. Monday. And the coming days and months are expected to bring little relief.

Forecasters predicted more thunderstorms and dry lightning through the weekend, similar to

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— the ones that ignited hundreds of fires a week ago. Meanwhile, nia battled more than a thousand a U.S. Forest Service report said wildfires to a stalemate by Sun- the weather would get even drier day, but forecasters said danger- and hotter as fire season headed toward its traditional peak in late July and August.

Lower-than-average rainfall and record levels of parched vegetation likely mean a long, fiery summer throughout Northern California, according to the Forest Service's state fire outlook released last week.

The fires burning now could take weeks or months to bring under full control, the report said.

Those blazes were mostly sparked by lightning storms that were unusually intense for so early in the season. But summer storms would probably be even fiercer, according to the Forest Service.

river was expected to crest in St. Governors discuss balancing energy, wildlife

TETON VILLAGE, Wyo. (AP)—Governors from several Western states voted Sunday to form a council that will study ways to protect wildlife habitat in the face of ever-increasing demand for energy development in their region.

The governors were attending the first day of the annual Western Governors' Association conference, held this year in the valley of Jackson Hole in Wyoming's northwestern corner.

The task of the Western Wildlife Habitat Council will be to identify key wildlife corridors and habitats for animals such as pronghorn antelope, sage grouse and bear.

It is also considering the potential impact of energy developmentboth in the form of oil and gas drilling and new construction of solar and wind generation plants—as well as the matter of infrastructure for the rising population in the region and the effects of climate change.

"It is very interesting that you

often have world-class habitat that is sitting right above worldclass energy reserves," U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said. "It is to our benefit that they are not mutually exclusive. When you look at the \$4 a gallon gasoline and see what the implications are of that for the American family with regard to fuel and food, you need to do all you can to responsibly and environmentally develop our energy resources."

Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal, chairman of the association's board of directors, has stressed the preservation of wildlife habitat, particularly to protect hunting, as his state enjoys the benefits of wealthy coal and natural gas reserves.

Along with gathering a foundation of information on wildlife habitats, Western states and the federal government should cooperate to make sure energy developers follow through with mitigating habitat disruption, he said.

Asia

11 killed in clashes with Philippine rebels

Communist guerrillas attacked a police station and burned a cellular phone transmission tower in the southern Philippines, sparking clashes with government forces that killed at least 11 people, an army official said Sunday.

About 50 New People's Army guerrillas attacked a police station in the town hall of Dapa and burned a cellular phone tower in nearby General Luna town in Surigao del Norte province in coordinated attacks late Saturday, regional military spokesman Maj. Armand Rico said.

The guerrillas took three assault rifles and five pistols

BHUBANESWAR, India

(AP)—Forty police officers

were feared drowned in eastern

India on Sunday after a group

of suspected communist rebels

attacked a police boat, capsizing

it in a rushing river, a local of-

More than 50 police officers

were on the boat in the state of

Orissa when the suspected reb-

els attacked, said local police of-

About 16 officers made it to

ficial Satish Kumar Gajbhiya.

ficial said.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— from the Dapa police station before withdrawing. Officials barricaded roads to slow down the rebels, who split into two groups, Rico said.

Army troops and police found and battled one group of about 20 rebels, killing nine and capturing five guerrillas with three rifles, he said.

Two policemen were killed and four others were wounded in the clash, Rico said.

The other group of about 30 rebels fled by boat to Lapinigan island. Army troops pursued and briefly clashed with the rebels early Sunday.

shore, but 40 were still missing

and feared drowned, he said.

Authorities were searching the

The attack occurred on the

Machakund river in Malkangiri

district, 375 miles south of Bhu-

Authorities were investigat-

ing the incident, but Gajbhiya

said they suspected the commu-

inspired by Chinese revolution-

The rebels, who say they are

baneswar, the state capital.

river for them.

nist rebels.

the rebels, who have been surrounded by troops in Lapinigan's forested interior, Rico said.

Surigao del Norte, a province of nearly 500,000 people, is about 430 miles southeast of Manila.

The rebels, who have waged a rural-based insurrection for about 40 years, have become more active in recent months, attacking remote police and military outposts and convoys to seize badly needed weapons.

Peace negotiations stalled in 2004 after the guerrillas accused the government of instigating their inclusion on U.S. and Helicopter gunships have been European Union terrorist lists.

ary leader Mao Zedong, have

been fighting for more than three

decades in several Indian states,

demanding land and jobs for agri-

They are called Naxalites af-

ter Naxalbari, a village in West

Bengal state where the move-

Over the past few years about

2,000 people—including police,

militants and civilians—have

The rebels often target local

been killed in the violence.

cultural laborers and the poor.

ment was born in 1967.

deployed to help kill or capture Norway, which has brokered the talks, has been trying to revive the negotiations.

> President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered the military to wipe out the rebels by 2010, when her term ends. The military says the number of rebels has dropped from 7,000 several years ago to about 5,000 this year because of battle casualties and surrenders.

> But a rebel spokesman, Gregorio Rosal, has said the spike in rebel attacks "only shows how totally baseless and self-delusionary" Arroyo and the military are in claiming progress in efforts to crush the insurgency.

police departments, which are

generally sparsely furnished

outposts in remote jungle areas.

In February, rebels launched co-

ordinated attacks on four police

stations, a training academy and

Last year, 55 policemen and

government-backed militiamen

were killed when hundreds of

rebels attacked an isolated po-

lice station in eastern Chhattis-

garh state in one of the bloodiest

attacks of the insurgency.

an armory, killing 15 people.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China: New talks with Dalai Lama representatives

BEIJING (AP)—China's official news agency says that Beijing will hold a new round of talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama in July. The Xinhua News Agency quoted an unnamed government spokesman as saying that China hopes that the Dalai Lama "would treasure this opportunity." The spokesman said the talks would take place in early July but did not give a specific date. The last meeting was held in May. Chinese authorities vilify the Dalai Lama, blaming him for recent unrest over Chinese rule in Tibet. The Dalai Lama has denied these charges, saying he still supports a solution of meaningful autonomy for the Tibetan people under China's rule, not independence.

Pakistan presses on with offensive vs. militants

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani paramilitary forces destroyed a handful of militant centers and uncovered alleged torture cells as they pressed ahead Sunday with an offensive against extremists near the Afghan border, officials said. A spokesman for Pakistan's top Taliban commander promised Sunday that militants would retaliate against the government, and were suspending efforts to reach and implement peace deals. The operation in the Khyber tribal area is a shift for Pakistan's new government, which has sought to reduce violence through the peace deals.

Shipping woes cut Chinese fireworks exports

LIUYANG, China (AP)—Chen Tiezhong will likely spend the Fourth of July worrying about the future of his sprawling fireworks factory. China, where fireworks were invented, is running short of ports from which to ship the dangerous cargoes abroad. China's fireworks industry provides 98 percent of America's overall needs, and 80 percent of the pyrotechnics needed for professional displays. But the U.S. fireworks business stands to lose \$25 million to \$30 million this year because of lost orders, says Julie Heckman, executive director for the American Pyrotechnics Association. A Missouri firm says it backed out of some shows because of the shortage.

South Korea bans rallies against US beef imports

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean police refused Sunday to allow more candlelight protests against the resumption of American beef imports, just hours after thousands of demonstrators clashed with riot police in the streets of the capital. The government said it would not tolerate violent, illegal rallies. Authorities used police buses to encircle a plaza in front of Seoul City Hall—the main site for weeks of evening rallies—to prevent protesters from gathering. Nevertheless, about 1,700 people marched into nearby downtown streets chanting slogans demanding the government of President Lee Myung-bak cancel its decision to lift a ban on U.S. beef.

Afghanistan civilian deaths up by **60 percent**

40 India policemen missing after rebel attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)— The number of civilians killed in fighting between insurgents and security forces in Afghanistan has soared by two-thirds in the first half of this year, to almost 700 people, a senior U.N. official said Sunday.

The figures are a grim reminder of how the nearly sevenyear war has failed to stabilize the country and suggest that ordinary civilians are bearing a heavy toll, particularly from stepped-up militant attacks.

John Holmes, the world body's humanitarian affairs chief, said the insecurity was making it increasingly difficult to deliver emergency aid to poor Afghans hit by the global food crisis.

"The humanitarian situation is clearly affected and made worse by the ongoing conflict in different parts of the country," Holmes told reporters in Kabul during a multi-day visit.

"Most of those casualties are caused by the insurgents, who seem to have no regard for civilian life, but there are also still significant numbers caused by the international military forces." he said.

Holmes said U.N. figures show that 698 civilians have died as a result of the fighting in the first half of this year. That compares to 430 in the first six months of 2007, a rise of 62 percent.

Militants caused 422 of the recorded civilian casualties, while government or foreign troops killed 255 people, according to

the U.N. numbers. The cause of 21 other deaths was unclear.

Holmes said the proportion of civilian casualties caused by security forces had dropped from nearly half last year and that clashes had become less dangerous to ordinary Afghans.

"It is clear that the international military forces are making every effort to minimize civilian casualties and recognize the damage this does and want to deal with that," he said.

"Nevertheless these problems

are still there and we need to deal with them and make sure that the safety of civilians comes first and international humanitarian law is respected by everybody."

NATO's reaction to the U.N. figures was cool.

"The U.N. Human Rights rapporteur made an accusation (in May) that we had killed 200, and I said then that those numbers were far, far higher than we would recognize, and that is still the case," said Mark Laity, a spokesman for the alliance in Kabul.

Laity provided no alternative figures.

Afghan leaders including President Hamid Karzai have accused NATO and the U.S.-led coalition of recklessly endangering civilians by using excessive force, including airstrikes, in residential areas.

Foreign commanders insist they take all reasonable precautions to avoid killing innocents and say militants routinely fire on them from houses and flee into villages.

TYPHOON AFTERMATH

Local residents traverse a muddy road as a man selling cleaning items passes by Sunday, June 29, 2008 in lloilo City in central Philippines. Typhoon Fensghen lashed central Philippines leaving a trail of devastation and 540 people dead and 277 missing.

Gay activists march in India's gay pride parade

NEW DELHI (AP)—Men wore sparkling saris, women wore rainbow boas and hundreds of people chanted for gay rights in three Indian cities Sunday in the largest display of gay pride in the deeply conservative country where homosexual acts are illegal.

Gay rights supporters took to the streets of Calcutta, Bangalore and New Delhi to call for an end to discrimination and push for acceptance in a society where intolerance is widespread.

"This is a national coming-out party," said Alok Gupta, a lawyer from Mumbai, as he stood among several hundred activists in New Delhi. "This is a simple thing: We are seeking the right to love."

While small groups have marched in the eastern city of Calcutta in recent years, Sunday's events were the first gay pride parades in Bangalore and New Delhi. Several hundred people turned out at each of the three events.

The marches came days before

the Delhi High Court is expected to hear arguments on overturning a law against homosexual sex that dates to the British colonial era. The law, which forbids sexual acts "against the order of nature," carries punishment of up to 10 years in prison.

The law is rarely enforced, but activists say it sanctions discrimination.

"Discrimination is widespread because there is no protection or law or societal understanding," said Lesley Esteves, 32, a gay rights activist who helped organize the New Delhi parade. "There's discrimination in the workplace; there's discrimination in the family—it's on every level."

Despite the festive mood Sunday, fear of discrimination was evident among the crowds in New Delhi. Many of the marchers wore rainbow-colored masks so their friends and families wouldn't know they were gay. Many others declined to speak to journalists.

World

Iraqi guards kill female suicide bomber

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi guards opened fire on a female suicide bomber on Sunday and triggered her explosives belt before she reached their headquarters, foiling the latest of more than 20 suicide missions by women this year, military officials said.

The bomber was targeting the headquarters of an awakening council—Sunni volunteers who have turned against insurgents—about 60 miles northeast of Baghdad. One of the guards was wounded in the blast, the Iraqi military said.

The number of female suicide

attackers has risen from eight in 2007 to more than 20 so far this year, according to U.S. military figures. Including Sunday's attack, at least nine have occurred in Divala province, a former al-Qaida stronghold where the extremist group is trying to regroup after setbacks last year.

A female suicide bomber struck outside a government complex a week ago in Baqouba, the capital of Diyala province, killing at least 15 people and wounding more than 40, according to U.S. and Iraqi of-

The attacks are part of an uptick in violence against Iraqi security forces and local administrations

A truck bomb detonated by remote control Sunday killed six policemen and an awakening council member in Duluiyah, some 45 miles north of Baghdad, said police Col. Mohammed Khalid.

In other violence, gunmen killed the head of Basra's intelligence department Saturday in a drive-by shooting in eastern Baghdad, local police said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Brig. Gen. Jabar Musaid, who played a leading role in the recent government crackdown against Shiite militias in Basra, was visiting relatives in a neighborhood controlled by militiamen loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Asked about the uptick in violence, U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said that Iraqi militants remain "resilient and determined" despite an overall improvement in the security

They have a capacity to hit back and that's what we're seeing, both from al-Oaida and its allies and from extremist Shia militias," Crocker told CNN on

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has been stepping up pressure on extremists in recent months, launching operations against Sunni militants in Mosul and Shiite militiamen in Baghdad, Basra and Amarah. Those operations are aimed at restoring government control to strategic areas of the country where armed groups have held

But the ongoing crackdown backfired when a relative of the prime minister was killed early Friday in a raid on Hindiyah, about 12 miles east of Karbala, local officials said.

Ali Abdul-Hussein, said to be a cousin of al-Maliki, was shot dead in a raid conducted by 60 U.S. soldiers supported by four helicopters and a fighter jet, provincial police chief, Raed Shakir, said.

Officials close to the prime minister said the killing enraged al-Maliki, who has been locked

Zimbabwe's Mugabe sworn in after discredited election



The Commander of the Defence Forces, Constatine Chiwenga, congratulates President Robert Mugabe, during the inauguration ceremony at State House in Harare, Zimbabwe, Sunday, June, 29, 2008.

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)— Zimbabwe's longtime ruler Robert Mugabe was sworn in as president for a sixth term Sunday after a widely discredited runoff in which he was the only candidate. His main rival dismissed the inauguration as "an exercise

in self-delusion."

Just hours after electoral officials said Mugabe won Friday's presidential runoff, which observers said was marred by violence and intimidation, the 84-year-old leader sounded a conciliatory note.

political parties, we shall start serious talks," he said in a speech following his swearingin. He also had promised talks on the eve of the vote.

Mugabe, Zimbabwe's leader since independence from Brit-"Sooner or later, as diverse ain in 1980, was expected at an African Union summit that opens Monday in Egypt, where he was to face fellow African leaders who want him to share power with his main rival, Morgan Tsvangirai.

Tsvangirai, leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, told Associated Press Television News that Sunday's inauguration was "meaningless."

"The world has said so, Zimbabwe has said so. So it's an exercise in self-delusion," he said.

Tsvangirai said he believed members of Mugabe's ZANU-PF party were ready for talks.

"I think that the reality has dawned on all the elites in ZANU-PF," Tsvangirai said. "Without negotiating with the MDC this is a dead-end."

African and other world leaders have condemned Friday's vote. Human rights groups said opposition supporters were the targets of brutal state-sponsored violence during the campaign, leaving more than 80 dead and forcing some 200,000 to flee their homes.

Residents said they were forced to vote by threats of violence or arson from Mugabe supporters who searched for anyone without an ink-stained finger—the telltale sign that they had cast a ballot.

On Sunday, Human Rights Watch said in a statement that Mugabe supporters beat people who couldn't prove they voted.

France's Nicolas and Carla assume Europe's throne

PARIS (AP)—France's first ing global demand for shrinklady sings in English and dreams in Italian, and the president's roots reach to Hungary and Greece. Nicolas Sarkozy and Carla Bruni-Sarkozy could be a metaphor for a harmonious, borderless Europe.

The real Europe is a cacophonous and conflicted place, though, as the Sarkozys will soon discover: On Tuesday, they become the continent's public face, as France takes over the presidency of the 27-nation European Union.

It's an unusual, important job, presiding over a bloc that boasts nearly half a billion people and an economy rivaling America's yet that struggles to manage its financial and diplomatic heft.

Impatient and attentiongrabbing, Sarkozy will have his hands full trying to guide—and not dictate to—an EU that is trying to prepare the sometimes sluggish continent to meet this century's challenges, from China's growing clout to expanding energy resources.

"Sarkozy can sometimes do brilliantly, but can equally be damaging," said Hugo Brady, research fellow at Center for European Reform in Britain. As EU president "you're not supposed to think in terms of national interest ... The presidency needs to lead from the back as a conciliator."

One of Sarkozy's first decisions after France takes the EU helm from small Slovenia will be whether to boycott the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics over its treatment of Tibet. The repercussions of a walkout on the EU's relations with emerging economic superpower China could be huge.

Sarkozy inherits an EU facing slowing growth, rising inflation and soaring fuel prices-and mired in doubt about its future after Irish voters rejected a treaty meant to tie the bloc closer together.

to boosting oil output Ciant Caudi fold is leave to boosti Giant Saudi neid is key

KHURAIS OIL FIELD, Saudi Arabia (AP)—This massive oil field surrounded by the desolate sands of Saudi Arabia's vast eastern desert feels like the middle of nowhere.

But what happens over the next year at Khurais, one of Saudi Arabia's last undeveloped giant oil fields, could hold the key to what drivers will pay at the pump for years to come.

Under way at Khurais and two other smaller fields nearby is what Saudi Arabia calls the single largest expansion of oil production capacity in history.

record fuel prices and the United States pushing Saudi Arabia to produce more oil, this patch of sand 100 miles west of the Saudi capital of Riyadh has become one of the most important places in the world economy.

Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company, Aramco, is spending \$10 billion to build the infrastructure to pump 1.2 million barrels of oil per day by next June from the Khurais field and its two smaller neighbors. That alone would be more than the total individual production of

With consumers howling over OPEC members Qatar, Indonesia and Ecuador.

> The project forms the centerpiece of the Saudi plan to increase the total amount of oil it can produce to 12.5 million barrels per day by the end of 2009—up from a little more than 11 million barrels per day now.

> Consuming nations have pushed Saudi Arabia to boost production capacity even further and also want the world's top oil exporter to begin pumping more crude immediately to bring down record oil prices hovering near \$140 a barrel.

They say oil production has not kept up with increased demand, especially from China, India and the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia plans to produce 9.7 million barrels of oil per day, or 11 percent of the world's total, in July. It is the only nation with significant excess capacity that it could put on the market

But the kingdom has resisted calls to increase production further, saying financial speculators and the falling dollar are to blame for high oil prices, not a shortage of supply.



In this March 27, 2008 file photo, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, arrive in Greenwich, London.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008 17

Overdrive

2009 SUBARU FORESTER 2.5XT

Beyond that hump, it's the inside that counts

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—My Ria Manglapus, sociate, couldn't get over the hump. It was ugly. It was in the way. It undermined her confidence in the vehicle's handling.

plaint. I got behind the wheel of the 2009 Subaru Forester 2.5XT wagon which, even Ria had to admit, looked better than any previous Forester.

I stared at the bulge in the middle of the wagon's hood. It was a scoop, put there to help funnel air to the Forester 2.5XT's turbocharged engine. I discovered the problem: Staring at the hump while the wagon is in motion creates a weird visual-motor sensation. You feel as if you are steering toward the hump while it constantly is moving away from you.

It's just a feeling. It makes you dizzy. You want to stop driving, pull over and refocus, which is what I did. Afterward, I was OK. I never stared at that hump again while driving.

It is not a usual complaint, certainly not one I normally would have acknowledged. But Ria has a point: That prominently placed hood scoop can be a distraction. There, I've said it.

Otherwise, I, that is, we— Ria; my wife, Mary Anne; and I—love the Forester 2.5XT. Heck, we love all versions of the new Forester, including the base 2.5X and plush 2.5XT Limited and 2.5XT L.L. Bean edition.

Fuel economy isn't great. The most economical model,

I tried to understand her com- the 2.5X, has a top highway performance of 26 miles per gallon. But, hey, the Forester models are mid-size, allwheel-drive utility vehicles. Considering their engineering and intended use, 24 mpg to 26 mpg in highway cruising, depending on the Forester package chosen, is nothing to cry about, except ...

> Well, buyers choosing Subaru's turbocharged 2.5-liter, 224horsepower, flat-four enginethe one used in the Forester 2.5XT that is the subject of this week's column—will have to make peace with buying premium unleaded gasoline. Turbochargers use exhaust-driven impellers to pull more air into the engine combustion chambers for a dense air-fuel mix.

> Turbocharged engines are high-compression engines, primarily designed to give a big boost in power with a relatively small fuel-consumption penalty. But they nearly always require premium unleaded gasoline.

> The base Forester 2.5X employs a normally aspirated engine to do its work. It produces 170 horsepower and 170 footpounds of torque, which usually is enough to take care of most of a family's transportation needs. But the good news here is that it runs on regular



The hood scoop on the 2009 Subaru Forester 2.5XT, put there to help funnel air to its turbocharged engine, can be a distraction. But the redesigned sport wagon looks better than any previous Forester ever.

unleaded gasoline. And there's no hump on the hood.

We were impressed by the thoughtfulness invested in the interior design of the new Forester line. Everything is exactly where it should be. Instrument dials and gauges are easily reachable and readable. There are more than enough cubby holes in which to store stuff, including a cleverly designed compartment beneath the rear cargo floor.

Overall visibility, with the exception of that hump in the tested Forester 2.5XT, is excellent. Cabin comfort is excellent. And there are a raft of optional electronic offerings, including navigation with backup camera and iPod connectivity that can turn life on the road in this one into a very pleasant adventure. Just make sure your co-drivers include no one who has strong objections to hood scoops.

By WARREN BROWN (C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

The hood scoop. Enough said.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

My wife Mary Anne and I gave excellent marks to ride comfort and acceleration. My associate Ria agreed with us on ride and acceleration. But she really hated that scoop and said it interfered with her sense of the wagon's handling.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Frankly, we all agree that this probably is the best-looking Subaru ever, which is something akin to describing a handsome hippopotamus.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Forester is a mid-size, front-engine, all-wheel-drive utility wagon available in two basic trim levels-2.5X and 2.5XT—with "Limited" and "L.L. Bean" upscale editions available at each level.

ENGINES/ TRANSMISSIONS

The tested Forester 2.5XT gets a turbocharged, 2.5-liter, 16valve, flat-four engine that develops 224 horsepower at 5,200 revolutions per minute and 226 foot-pounds of torque at 2,800 revolutions per minute. The engine is mated to a four-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Cargo capacity with rear seats up is 30.8 cubic feet or 63 cubic feet with rear seats folded. The Forester can be equipped to tow up to 2,400 pounds. Fuel capacity is 16.9 gallons. Remember, in the turbocharged 2.5XT, the required fuel is premium. If you do not wish to pay for premium, get the base 2.5X engine.

MILEAGE

On the highway in the Forester 2.5XT, we averaged 24 miles per gallon.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes side and head air bags, antilock brakes, and electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE

Base price for the tested 2009 Forester XT with navigation and backup camera is \$29,995. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$28,034. Price as tested is \$31,581, including \$921 in options (Sirius satellite radio and trailer hitch) and a \$665 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$29,390. Prices sourced from Subaru, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

The Forester remains this column's favorite mid-size utility wagon. Compare with Chevrolet Equinox, Honda CR-V, Hyundai Sportage, Toyota RAV4.

Entrepreneur auctioning off 200 classic cars

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As he prepares to watch his treasured 1940 Howard Hughes Cadillac and hundreds of other meticulously maintained automobiles be driven right out the door, broadcasting pioneer Art Astor is realizing a piece of his heart will be leaving with them.

A Southern California native who grew up with a passion for automobiles, Astor began collecting classic cars 30 years ago when he began buying radio stations and making the kind of money that would allow him to own something like lion to \$25 million. the 1927 Rolls-Royce roadster that once belonged to movie cowboy Tom Mix.

Now 83 and unable to find anyone willing or financially able to take on his collection after he's gone, Astor has decided to part with about 200 of his approximately 270 cars.

Those he's selling go on the block Saturday at the Astor Events Center in Anaheim, where much of Astor's large collection of antique radios and telephones also began being sold Friday. The sale of all items concludes Sunday and is expected to raise \$20 mil-

It is parting with the cars, however, that is breaking the heart of Astor, who owns radio station KSPA, which broadcasts in Southern California's inland region, and stations KFSD and KCEO in the San Diego area.

"I don't have any car that I ever bought that I didn't like," the normally effusive entrepreneur says quietly during a recent phone interview from his museum. He's just gotten back, he says, from taking his 1955 Cadillac Coup de Ville out for a spin.

"When you part with an automobile that I purchased myself and test drove it and looked at it and fell in love with it," he adds with a sigh. "It almost borders on trauma."

That's why he won't part with the 1947 Ford Woody that once belonged to actor Steve Mc-Queen. He tried and failed to acquire it when McQueen sold his own car collection shortly before his death in 1980 and had to wait 15 years for it to come back on the auction block.

"That's one of my favorites," he says, even if it's not the collection's priciest. But then Astor, who says he moved on from hosting a local TV show early in his career to running radio stations because it was the guys

who did that who seemed to drive the really nice cars, didn't Rolls-Royces or Packards or buy any of his vehicles with Jaguars or Buick Roadmasters strictly dollar signs in mind.

"I prefer to have maybe a 1950 Oldsmobile holiday coup that's worth maybe \$50,000 instead of a Deusenberg worth a millionand-a-half," he says. "I don't like to drive a Deusenberg. I'd rather drive an Oldsmobile."

Or the 1939 Plymouth with only 9,000 miles on it. It's probably worth no more than he's cleaning it out. Maintain-\$25,000.

"But it gives me joy because it's an example of a prewar automobile," Astor says. "It's still got the 'Elect Roosevelt' sticker on it."

Unlike most cars found in automotive museums, Astor could take that Plymouth or one of his out on the road right now. He keeps every car in his Astor Automotive Museum polished and ready to drive.

"It's the only museum in the world that I'm aware of that everything here works including its curator," Astor says, laughing heartily.

And that's part of the reason ing a staff of a half-dozen or more people to keep his cars, radios and phones working costs him a fortune, he says, adding: "I'm not wealthy enough or have the deep pockets to throw a couple million dollars away every year."

Life & Style

The beauty of the beach read

By DAN ZAK (C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Summer is a season that demands a certain kind of book. It's a time for beach reads, they say, not for "Finnegans Wake" or "Gravity's Rainbow." You don't have to work the book. The book works you.

But what does the term "beach read" mean, beyond bonanza sales? Is a beach read a whimsical Maeve Binchy? Is it a legal potboiler by John Grisham or a sprawling saga by James Michener? Or all of the above and more? (Or less?)

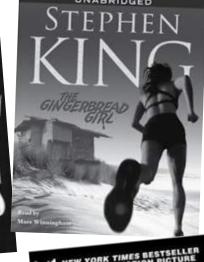
We dialed up some best-selling novelists to ask.

"It's a page turner," says David Baldacci, an author of political thrillers. "Fast plots. Engaging characters. Twists and turns. You don't have to think a whole lot about serious things."

"It's an indulgence," says mystery writer Janet Evanovich, whose recurring heroine is a bounty hunter named Stephanie Plum. "It's usually a wellcrafted book written by an author that consistently delivers. Something you can count

"It's sort of paradoxical," says Diana Gabaldon, author of the sci-fi, romantic and historical fiction Outlander series. "A great beach read has to have two attributes: really absorbing so you want to read it, but it also has to be interruptible so you can put it down and chase your kids."

Publishers are rolling out marquee summer titles this month, with the season's sales expected to peak in August. The beach read's popularity stems from the advent of the mass-market paperback industry, which began in 1945 when publisher Ian Ballantine started Bantam Books. Paperbacks were cheap (25 cents in the late 1940s) and fit snugly in pockets or purses—





easy to buy, easy to transport and, generally, easy to read. In the '50s, books became available in

drugstores, supermarkets and train terminals. Publishers started lucrative TV and movie tie-ins, with paperbacks being released with their film adaptations.

If the '70s gave birth to the summer movie blockbuster, the '60s were about blockbuster books. "Valley of the Dolls" (1966), "Rosemary's Baby"

(1967)and "The Godfa-(1969)flew off the shelves books before they sold out theaters

"The Godfather' was the first of the superbooks that totally dominated beach reads," says Albert Greco, a marketing professor at Fordham University who specializes in the publishing industry. "And then in the '70s you see the next round of superbooks: 'Jaws,' 'Roots.' Then

in the '80s, you see 'Bourne Identity,' 'Princess Daisy' (by Judith Krantz), Danielle Steel. In the '90s, we start to see a slight shift: The emergence not of the big superstar book, but the big superstar author."

These superstars hit the top-10 lists year after year: Patricia Cornwell, Grisham, James Patterson, J.K. Rowling. They are brands unto themselves, and their devoted followings count on consistent delivery. Every June, for example, Evanovich releases her newest Stephanie

> Plum story in hardcover and last year's title in paperback.

"I love being thought of as a beach read," she says. "It makes it easy for the consumer because they know to look forward to this at the same time every year."

The popular perception might be that a beach read is somehow deficient compared with whatever's nabbing the Booker Prize. But some novelists dispute this, and writer and critic Thomas Mallon draws a distinction between a beach read and an "airplane read,"

or a thinly crafted book that seems designed simply to tranquilize flight anxiety.

"The beach would actually seem to me the perfect time to read something really serious, because your mind would be clear enough and untroubled enough to take it in," says Mallon, whose novel "Fellow Travelers" was published last year. "The beach sounds perfect for that ambitious run at Proust or Gibbon."

She's not Proust, but if there's one person installed on the beachread throne by both the publishing industry and the public, it's probably Mary Higgins Clark, the queen of suspense who has sold 80 million copies in the United States alone. She's in the airport stacks, the beach bags and the orderly shelves of rented townhouses on the seashore.

"I think it's defined as sort of light, entertaining reading, as opposed to having a heavier read," Clark hedges. "I hope from her home in New Jersey.

book by an author who has so far pleased you, and you know what to expect."

"You sit on the beach with a

Does she see herself as a beach-read goddess?

"I'm called a good beach tone," says Clark, on the phone I'm a decent read the other 10 months of the year."

The book I'd take to the shore is...

(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Writers share their quintessential beach reads and tell us why they fit into or redefine the mold.

DAVID BALDACCI, FAIRFAX, VA.

Author of political thrillers "Absolute Power" (1996) and "The Whole Truth" (2008)

One book I really enjoy is Nelson DeMille's "Plum Island." a treasure hunt with a contemporary twist. Or "The Gold Coast." Interesting reads. One of his main characters in "Plum Island," John Corey, has a fast mouth; he's funny as hell. DeMille gives you just enough research, just enough information to feel like you're learning something, and characters you can be engaged by.

SUSAN CHOI, NEW YORK

Author of "A Person of Interest" (2008), Pulitzer Prize finalist for "American Woman" (2003)

I often choose beach reading because it's short and funny, but one of greatest beach-read experiences I ever had was reading a huge chunk of "War and Peace." I was staying at a beach house in Cape Cod above these tidal slats. At low tide, I'd walk out half a mile with a chair and plop down. It was really sublime to sit there with the tide out while people would play softball. A lot of people are worried their beach reading needs to be lowbrow and easy because they'll be distracted, but "War and Peace"—I couldn't put it down.

MARY HIGGINS CLARK, SADDLE RIVER, N.J.

Author of more than two dozen suspense novels

"Gift From the Sea," the Anne Morrow Lindbergh book, because when I'm up in my home on Cape Cod and walking along the beach, ... I think the thoughts she thought at the time—a sense of eternity, a sense of peace, a sense of holding up a shell and listening and hearing the sea.

TANANARIVE DUE, GLENDORA, CALIF.

Author of supernatural fiction works "The Between" (1995) and "Blood Colony" (2008)

"The Stand" by Stephen King, because it's all-absorbing. I think that in "The Stand," like all of his novels, he creates real people who walk you through a nightmare. The great thing about being somewhere like the beach is that you can look up and assure yourself the world is alive and well.

JANET EVANOVICH, HANOVER, N.H.

Author of the Stephanie Plum series

Maybe "The Great Gatsby." It has something to do with the time. A lighter, happier time. My second choice would be Nancy Drew, for similar reasons. When you're living in a time that's tense or stressful, maybe you think back to books that were about simpler times, when Ned Nickerson was a good guy and a mother didn't have to worry about her daughter being out with him. A time when you could see Nancy Drew in that roadster. We would all like to be riding in that roadster now.

THOMAS MALLON, WASHINGTON

Critic and author of "Henry and Clara" (1994) and "Fellow Travelers" (2007)

One book that would qualify nicely for the sort of high-end vacation reading is "Nicholas Nickleby." There you have the extremes of human nature—the detestable Wackford Squeers and the saintly Cheeryble brothers—in one fat, companionable little volume.

"Luck: The Essential Guide" luck to all who visit.

By Deborah Aaronson and Kevin Kwan (Collins, \$19.95)

By KATY OLSON

Ever wonder why black cats foretell misfortune, while spiders are to be spared? Or why spilling milk spells trouble, but dropping a fork does not? Even if you're about as lucky as a peacock in a theater (which is to say, not very), Deborah Aaronson and Kevin Kwan's "Luck: The Essential Guide" will reveal the fortuitous trinkets, tricks and traditions that can convert your kismet.

From the conventional (donning a horseshoe charm) to the unusual (many Japanese prefer a "golden poo" bauble), "Luck" is a comprehensive compendium of all things lucky. In addition to feng shui tips, dining

etiquette and recipes, "Luck" includes a catalog of fortune-filled destinations—like the Wat Po Temple of the Reclining Buddha in nate friend. And maybe next time you'll think twice before swatting Bangkok and the Trevi Fountain in Rome—that are bound to bring away that lucky little spider!

Most handy are the tips for creating your own luck and remedying the bad. Whether you're choosing the best location for a tattoo

LUDLUM

or deciding when to try a new hairstyle (make that appointment on a Monday, and never on a Sunday!), this compelling chronicle distills age-old traditions into modern advice that's applicable everywhere from the market to the casino.

> Deciding between garlic and parsley? Stick with the former, as propitious people from the ancient Romans and Egyptians to contemporary Spaniards extol garlic for its curative properties, while the latter signifies death and nearly guarantees ill fortune. Hitting the blackjack table? Wear auspicious red underwear, or try rubbing the dice on a red-headed bystander (if you're shy you can just carry dice in your pocket for similar results).

Gorgeously designed, you can knock on the "wooden" cover of this book, or pass it along to a less-fortu-

Gay revelers celebrate pride, marriage rights

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A lesbian motorcycle group dressed in wedding gowns and wearing bridal veils lent a matrimonial touch to San Francisco's gay pride parade Sunday as revelers celebrated their newfound freedom to marry.

The riders tossed bouquets as they led the city's 38th annual gay pride parade down Market Street. Some of the motorcycles were adorned with signs that read "Just Married."

Huge crowds lined the route as city tourism officials predicted the largest turnout yet for the parade, which typically draws tens of thousands.

The county clerk's office was busy Friday handing out marriage licenses and handling wedding ceremonies. Same-sex marriage has been legal in California since June 16, after a state Supreme Court decision.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom received ovations along the parade route for his role in working to overturn the state's gay marriage ban.

Though City Hall was closed Sunday, parade organizers put



Marchers carry a rainbow flag at the gay pride parade along Fifth Avenue in New York on Sunday, June 29,

up a wedding pavilion across the street where couples could get information about tying the knot or celebrate newly sanctioned unions.

Wade French, 61, and his partner, Brent Lock, 54, wed in

San Francisco the day after the court's decision took effect. At the parade, Lock wore a T-shirt reading "Finally married..." while French's shirt read "...after 30 years together."

"We always come to the pa-

rade, but this year is a different feeling because we're celebrating something that's personal to us," Lock said.

The couple said they were asking friends and family not to make donations to a nonprofit legally married elsewhere. group working to fight a ballot measure that would once again ban gay marriage in the state.

In a taped interview Sunday morning on NBC's "Meet the Press," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called the measure "a waste of time."

"I personally believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman," Schwarzenegger said. "But at the same time I think that my, you know, belief, I don't want to force on anyone

The initiative set to go before voters in November would provide that "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Its language was taken directly from a gay marriage ban enacted by voters in 2000, one of two the state Supreme Court found unconstitutional and struck down on May 15.

In New York, Gov. David Paterson was cheered during the gay pride parade, one month after he directed state agencies to provide full marriage benefits send wedding gifts and instead to same-sex couples who were British colonial era.

Jim Saslow carried a bouquet to the march down Manhattan's Fifth Avenue and wore a wedding gown stamped with the words, "Coming Here Soon?"

"Everyone here is thinking if California can do it, then we should be able to do it here soon," he said.

Overseas, gay pride marches in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia and the Czech Republic city of Brno came under attack Saturday by extremists who threw rocks and eggs. No serious injuries were reported.

In Paris, more than half a million people danced through the streets beneath a river of rainbow flags.

In India, hundreds chanted for gay rights in Calcutta, Bangalore and New Delhi in the largest display of gay pride in the deeply conservative country, where homosexual acts are illegal. The marches came days before the Delhi High Court is expected to hear arguments on overturning a law against homosexual sex that dates to the

Political focus helps make MSNBC more competitive

NEW YORK (AP)—Phil Griffin, the NBC News executive who oversees MSNBC, is a coiled mass of energy who needs little provocation to do battle. Now he's got something to fight for.

MSNBC is a player in the cable news competition in a way it hasn't been before. The surge in viewership created by the presi-

dential campaign has benefited MSNBC more than Fox News Channel or CNN, and Griffin is pushing to consolidate those gains.

Round-the-clock political talk is planned for the Democratic and Republican national conventions later this sum-Chris Matthews and Keith Olbermann will be the prime-time ringmasters working on outdoor sets in St. Paul and Denver, as opposed to booths in the convention halls. Joe Scarborough's "Morning Joe" will likely originate from a diner.

Brian Williams, Tom Brokaw, David Gregory and Andrea Mitchellthe kind of NBC News star power that once kept MSNBC at arm's length—will all play prominent roles.

MSNBC is competing hard in the sloganeering game, too. While CNN claims "the best political team on television" and Fox is "America's election headquarters," MSN-BC is the "place for politics."

MSNBC specifically targets new viewers to cable news, in the 25-to-54-year-old demovertisers. Fox and CNN have Donchin, an analyst for the mewider leads when all viewers are counted, but MSNBC is competitive among the younger viewers

During the first three weeks of June, MSNBC's prime-time weeknight audience was up 85 percent over last year within

In this July 22, 2006 file photo, Keith Olbermann, host of the MSNBC show, "Countdown With Keith Olbermann," talks about his show at the Summer Television Critics Association Press Tour in Pasadena, Calif.

> that group, according to Nielsen Media Research. CNN was up 29 percent and Fox was down 1 percent during the same period. MSNBC was within striking distance, fewer than 10,000 viewers on average, of secondplace CNN.

Advertisers have taken notice

graphic most attractive to ad- of MSNBC's gains, said Andy dia buying firm Carat USA.

> "They're not at CNN and Fox's level yet," Donchin said. 'But I think they've made greater inroads. They've gotten their act together a bit and found a formula that works for them."

For the first time, MSNBC

has everyone at NBC News behind the network and believing in it, Griffin said. That's partly explained by the simple move of MSN-BC's studios from Secaucus, N.J., to NBC's headquarters at Rockefeller Center in New

The late Tim Russert played a key role in signaling an acceptance of MSNBC by starting to make more appearances there a year or two ago, Griffin said. That wasn't necessarily a priority at NBC News during years when MSNBC seemed without a direction.

"There was a sensibility here that 30 Rock was the major leagues," he said. "Cable is fine but it was sort of kids playing in Secaucus. I think everyone knows that MSNBC is a play-

er and a platform for NBC News editorially and financially."

Management erred in years past by trying to be all things to all people, he said. Now MSN-BC is "a little smarter, a little edgier, a little more honest."

And maybe a little more liberal. Griffin resists the idea that the go-to network for the left, in much the same way as Fox is the network of choice for many conservatives. Still, its breakout

MSNBC is positioning itself as show is hosted by the virulently Obama. anti-administration Olbermann, who's made no secret of his admiration for Democratic presidential nominee Barack

CNN plays to that image with an advertising campaign that portrays itself as the "independent thinker."



THOMAS CABRERA SABLAN Was called to his eternal rest in the grace of our Lord on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at the age of 55.

In his new life, he now joins his:

Parents: Tomas Palacios Sablan & Isabel Mendiola Cabrera Sablan

Wife: Francisca Vicenta Diaz Magofna Sablan

Siblings/In-Laws: Vicente S. Sablan, Soledad S./Francisco C. Basa Gregorio S./Victoria M. Sablan, Faustina S./Fernando M. Benavente, Jesus S. Sablan, Daniel T. Muna, Rita S. Mettao, Maria DLR. Gonzales, and Joaquin C. Sablan.

Parents-in-Law: Pedro Bias/Ana Diaz Magofna In-Laws: Amalia, Amalia & Sylvan Canice D. Magofna

Survived by his:

Children: Thomas Jr. (Hannaeka, Thomas III, Keoni, Maria, and Tahnie-Joie), Yvonne/Derek Guzman (Thomas Peter, Tiana, Thea, and Tyarra), Marlene/Alvin T. Mendiola (Louanne and Matua), Ana

Siblings/In-Laws: Maria M. Sablan, Ana S./Henry T. Indalecio, Rita G. Sablan, Juana S. Muna, Natividad Sablan (Raphael Demapan), Matilde S./Martin M. Taisacan, Manuel C./Consolacion C. Sablan, Raphael M, Mettao, Maria S,/Juan L, Ada, Alfredo A, Gonzales, Isabel S,/Melchor U, Maratita, Pedro C./Ignacia M. Sablan, Margarita S./Jose T. Castro, Bernadita S./Isidro T. Cabrera, and Grace C.

In-Laws: Vicente D./Rosalina Magofna, Rosario D. Magofna, Sinforosa D. Magofna, Estella M./Antonio Cabrera, Diana/Jose Santos, Carmen M./Roger Dempsey, Molly Ann M./Manuel Duenas, Cecilia M./Ramon Ngeskebei, James John D. Velma A. Magofna, Step-Mother-in-law: Ana Ada Magofna. He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews

Nightly Rosary is said immediately after Nightly Mass at 6:00 pm, except on Sunday at 7:00 am at San Antonio Church. On Thursday, July 3, 2008, his body will leave Borja Funeral Homes at 7:00 am and be escorted to San Antonio Church for viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 am and Internment will follow immediately at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

I tinayuyot yan finatton miyo ma sen agradesi. Si Yu'us ma'ase' ginen i famagu'on yan i familia.

ALL-E, 'Wanted' team up as \$100M duo

LOSANGELES (AP)—Alonely little robot made millions of friends during the weekend—and even outgunned Angelina Jolie.

"WALL-E," the Pixar Animation tale of a robot toiling away on a long-abandoned Earth, debuted as the No. 1 movie with \$62.5 million in ticket sales, with Jolie's assassin thriller "Wanted" open-

ing in second place with \$51.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The two movies combined to keep Hollywood on a roll. The top 12 movies took in \$179.2 million, up 22 percent from the same weekend last year, when Pixar's "Ratouille" opened with \$47 million.

- 1. "WALL-E," \$62.5 million.
- 2. "Wanted," \$51.1 million.
- 3. "Get Smart," \$20 million.
- 4. "Kung Fu Panda," \$11.7 million.
- 5. "The Incredible Hulk," \$9.2 million.
- 6. "The Love Guru," \$5.4 million.
- 7. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," \$5 million.
- 8. "The Happening," \$3.9 million.
- 9. "Sex and the City," \$3.8 million.
- 10. "You Don't Mess With the Zohan," \$3.2 million.



In this image released by Disney/Pixar Animation Studios, a scene from the animated film, "WALL-E," is

It was the fifth straight weekend that revenues climbed. Revenues for the summer season that began May 2 are up 6

percent over last year's record pace, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

The sour economy and high gas prices may be helping to fuel Hollywood's boom, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. Movies tend to thrive when times are tough because they are relatively cheap compared to sports events, concerts and other outings.

"Audiences are obviously gravitating toward the movies as their first choice for entertainment," Dergarabedian said. "It doesn't take that much gas to get to the local multiplex. That No. 1 movie, the Warner Bros. comedy "Get Smart," slipped to third place with \$20 million, raising its total to \$77.3 million.

"WALL-E" maintains the perfect track record of Pixar, the Walt Disney unit that has made nine films, all of them critical and commercial successes, including "Cars," "Monsters, Inc." and the "Toy Story" flicks. "Finding Nemo" and "The Incredibles" put up the biggest opening-weekend numbers among Pixar movies, both pulling in just over \$70 million.

Set centuries in the future, "WALL-E" is the story of a rick-

The movie overcame a dialogue challenge—the two main robot characters barely speak, beyond each other's namesusing wildly inventive visuals and sound effects to propel much of the story.

Like other Pixar films, "WALL-E" packed in family crowds, as well as adults without children

"The real secret is they're not children's movies. They're movies for everybody. Children absolutely adore them, but parents enjoy them on a different level," said Mark Zoradi, president of Disney's motion-picture group. "You can't be nine-for-nine like Pixar is without that."

The G-rated "WALL-E" was complemented by Jolie's Rrated "Wanted," which distributor Universal originally planned to release back in March. The studio decided the movie was too good to release at a slower moviegoing time and moved it to summer on a weekend when competition for a violent action tale would be light.

"We knew 'WALL-E' would be huge, but it's not the same audience as 'Wanted,'" said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal.

"Wanted" stars Jolie as a member of a secret society of assassins whose new recruit (James McAvoy) is trained to use his superhuman abilities to

might have a little something to ety, walking trash compactor that do with this, as well." humans left running after abanwww.gohollywood.com The previous weekend's doning the over-polluted planet. take out a rogue killer. Japanese game shows comi

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A grown man wearing a diaper is spun around until he can barely stand, then is made to try an obstacle course carrying pitchers of milk without spilling any. Another man, dressed like an insect, flings himself onto a giant-sized "windshield" with a giant-sized "splat."

Is American television going crazy? No-American television is going Japanese.

With the increasing popularity of YouTube clips from Japanese game shows such as "Endurance," "Hole in the Wall" and "Human Tetris," U.S. networks-never shy about imitation—are bringing similar antics to their prime-time schedules.

On Tuesday, ABC is airing back-to-back premieres of "Wipeout" (8 p.m EDT) and "I Survived a Japanese Game Show" (9 p.m. EDT), with a domestic edition of "Hole in the Wall" coming this fall on Fox.

"It's going to be like nothing that American audiences have ever seen on network television," says "I Survived" host Tony Sano.

Indeed, Americans, accustomed to such family-friendly game shows as "Jeopardy!," "The Price is Right" and "Deal or No Deal" will likely find the new shows somewhat jolting. Then again, that's the idea.

"There is a great desire to shock over there," notes "Hole in the Wall" executive producer Stuart Krasnow. "Ironically, we're more puritan over here. But the Japanese will shock to any extreme."

Popular around the world, "Hole" pits contestants against solid walls coming at them with odd-shaped openings. They must mimic those shapes with their bodies to allow them to pass teams of five unsuspecting through the walls, lest they get

designed new games around them," with a little help from Japanese game show producers to make the stunts more ... well, Japanese.

"I Survived" moves two American contestants—who, by



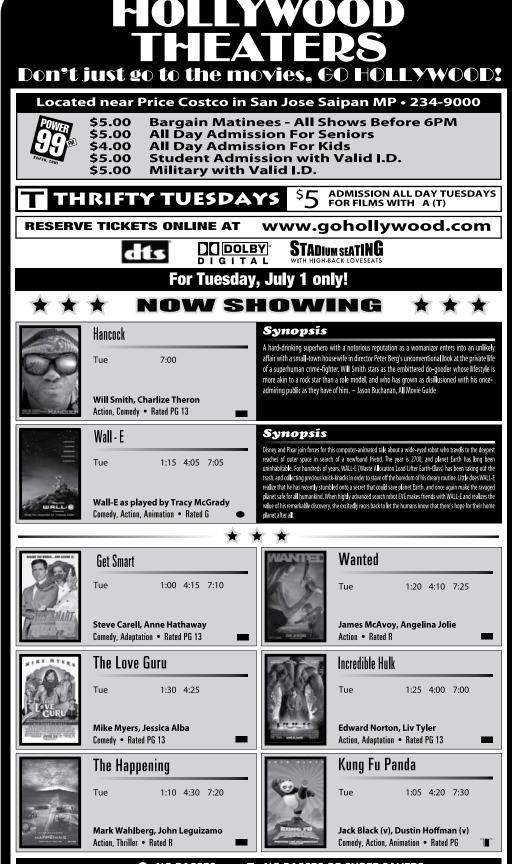
In this image released by ABC, host Rome Kanda, left, is shown on stage with two contestants for the game show, "I Survived A Japanese Game Show," in Japan. The unscripted reality program, featuring Americans who are whisked away to compete for \$250,000, premieres Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 9:00 p.m. EDT on ABC.

knocked into a pool of water.

Physically challenging, for sure. But for sheer zaniness, "I Survived" executive producers Arthur Smith and Kent Weed have gone all-out weird.

"We watched hundreds of hours of Japanese shows and looked for all of the consistent themes," says Smith, "whether it's being dizzy, use of treadmills, falling into water. We took those elements and then

the way, didn't know they were going to Japan—into a house in Tokyo. The teams compete in bizarre games, with the winning crew in each round getting a "reward," such as a VIP tour around Tokyo, while the losers suffer a "punishment," such as having to haul rickshaws around Tokyo. They then vote their two worst teammates into an elimination game, such as "Splat On a Windshield."



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Will Smith's school 'not Scientologist'



U.S. performer Will Smith, right, and his wife Jada Pinket Smith, left, open the 46664 charity concert in honour of Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday in London, Friday, June 27, 2008.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Smith 's soon-to-open private school is not a Scientology facility, as some reports have suggested, the academy's director said.

Smith and his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, have founded the New Village Academy, sched- not Scientologists, and the acad-

uled to open in September.

The school will use instructional methods developed by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard called study technology. And a few teachers belong to the church.

But the couple say they are

emy's director insists the facility has no religious affiliation.

"We are a secular school, and just like all nonreligious independent schools, faculty and staff do not promote their own religions at school or pass on the beliefs of their particular faith to children," New Village Acad-

emy director Jacqueline Olivier told the Los Angeles Times.

Oliver said some of the school's staffers are Scientologists, Muslim, Christian or Jewish.

In addition to reading and math, the school offers classes on yoga, robotics and etiquette.

Model's death after NYC apartment fall was suicide



In this Sept. 7, 2007 file photo, fashion model Ruslana Korshunova wears a design during a presentation of The Cynthia Rowley 2008 spring/summer collection in New York.

death of a fashion model who plunged from the ninth floor of a Manhattan building has been ruled a suicide.

The medical examiner's office said Sunday that Ruslana Korshunova (roos-LAH'-nuh kor-shoo-NOE'-

NEW YORK (AP)—The vuh) died in the fall the afternoon before.

> The fall was from her apartment in the Financial District. The 20-year-old Korshunova was a native of Kazakhstan who graced the covers of top fashion magazines.

Winehouse strikes back at Glastonbury reveler

LONDON(AP)—Amy Winehouse was packing a punch at the Glastonbury music festival. After taking the stage Saturday, the troubled singer climbed down into the pit and scuffled briefly with a reveler.

It was unclear what sparked the altercation but witnesses say a fan tried to grab Wine-

Winehouse sang for about an hour in front of an estimated crowd of 80,000.

She shocked fans last week by performing at a special birthday concert for Nelson Mandela.



Amy Winehouse spits out her chewing gum while performing on the Pyramid Stage during day two of the Glastonbury music Festival, near Glastonbury, England Saturday June 28, 2008.

The performance came just after she was hospitalized. Her father says she developed emphysema from smoking cigarettes and crack cocaine, although her spokeswoman has said Winehouse only has pre-emphysema symptoms.

SAG leader calls strike talk 'a distraction'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The leader of the Screen Actors Guild said Sunday the union remains committed to negotiating a new deal with Hollywood producers as contract expiration looms and is not calling for a strike.

Anxiety has been growing in Hollywood that actors might walk off the job or that studios could lock out performers on the heels of the Writers Guild of America strike that devastated production from November through February.

The SAG contract runs out at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday.

"We have taken no steps to initiate a strike authorization vote by the members of Screen Acors Guild," union president Alan Rosenberg said in a statement Sunday. "Any talk about a strike or a management lockout at this point is simply a distraction."

SAG leaders have been fighting a deal reached between producers and another actors union, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. Results of voting by that 70,000member union are due July 8.

AFTRA and the 120,000-member SAG have 44.000 members in common. SAG leaders are urging their members who also are in AFTRA to vote against the deal, saying they can strike a better bargain with producers if the contract is defeated.

Disappearing husband may be sign of marriage breaking up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My husband of three years, "Mike," is never home. He goes to work and then hangs out with his buddies, leaving me at home with our baby and my two other children until late at night. On weekends, Mike jumps out of bed, showers and leaves -- sometimes not returning until the wee hours of the morning. He says he's "with



Most of the time he doesn't bother to call, but when he does I'm usually so mad I don't answer the phone. Mike says he "needs his time." Well, what about our time as a couple and as a family? I told him I feel like I'm running a bed-and-breakfast.

My friends say they think Mike has someone else. I'm not sure. This has been going on for a year and a half, and I am tired of it. He rarely agrees to watch the baby if I have to run to the store. When he's home, all he does is play video games.

Abby, Mike is 34 years old. I am 41. He has touched me only once in the last four months. I feel rejected, lonely and miss the closeness. What should I do?

HOME ALONE IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR HOME ALONE: Your husband is behaving like an adolescent who has run away from home. The cause may be another woman, anger at you, an inability to shoulder mature responsibility or a combination of the three. But you won't get to the bottom of it until you can get a handle on your emotions, stop reacting with anger, and convince him to level with you. Believe me, you have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old male. When I was in middle school, I was considerably smaller than the other guys, and as a result, I was often picked on about my size. Every year we were required to take a physical fitness test in P.E. My dismal performance in front of my classmates was a source of great embarrassment.

I'm now a junior in high school and participate in numerous varsity sports. Even though I am a competitive athlete, I am still insecure about my body. I constantly worry about my size -- that I am too fat or too small. I am never content about my body. How can I build my self-confidence?

LAS VEGAS TEEN

DEAR TEEN: Begin by having a talk with your coach. If your body wasn't in good shape, you would not be in varsity competition.

Next, make up your mind to focus on other aspects of yourself besides the physical. Volunteer some of your free time to a charitable cause, helping younger kids with sports, or community activities. It will give you less time to obsess about your body, help you develop other interests and make you feel good about yourself.

If that's not enough, then talk to a counselor, because what you are doing is replaying "old tapes" in your head that have nothing to do with the person you are today.

DEAR ABBY: I dress my Siamese cat, "Belle," in clothes and pajamas. (Yes, they make apparel for cats.) I also push her around in a stroller. My friends think I'm crazy, but I consider Belle to be my daughter.

One time, a teenager came up to me as I was pushing Belle in her stroller and asked, "Where's the baby?" I told her that Belle was like my baby.

Is it nuts to treat a cat like a child?

MOM OF A FUR KID IN N.Y.

DEAR "MOM": Nuts? No. A bid for attention ... perhaps.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone - teens to seniors - is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

MOM, CAN HOBBES COME IN SWIMMING WITH ME? I DON'T THINK WHY NOT.?





By Bill Waterson

Garfield®







By Jim Davis

Adam@home

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

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5 Martian

8 A really

vessel

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Prince

Myshkin,





By Bryan Basset

The Duplex







By Glenn McCoy

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Liv Tyler, 31; Missy Elliott, 37; Carl Lewis, 47; Dan Avkrovd 56 **Happy Birthday:** Surprises are heading your way.

Open and honest discussions and travel should be considered, especially if it allows you to reconnect with your past. This is a year of praise and a time to make whatever changes will make your life complete. Your numbers are 4, 9, 18, 22, 33, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can persuade others to help you with your projects, concerns and beliefs. Once you have the momentum built up, you will be impossible to stop and can make a difference to the outcome of a situation you feel strongly about.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Work with organizations or people involved in something that interests you and you will make important contacts. A financial change based on emotional reasons will set you back, so don't let someone talk you into paying his or her

way. OOO GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll find it difficult to control your emotions. Rather than spouting off, move forward on your own. If you talk about your ideas it will help someone else more than it will you. Be secretive for now. OOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Work with institutions, banks, corporations or government agencies in order to get to the bottom of a situation that is holding you back. You should be able to clear matters up and move forward if you put in the time and effort to be the go-between. OOO

understanding fast. ••

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Expect the unexpected and prepare to deal with a whole new set of parameters. Rather than making a mistake, wait until you have a better handle on the situation. Don't give in to pressure and you will come out on top. ••••

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't believe everything you are told, even if it is what you want to hear. Someone is trying to bait you into doing something. You have to read each situation properly and use reason so you can protect your reputation. Correct any mis-

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you promise something you can't deliver, you could be in trouble with a be in trouble with the very people with whom you are trying to keep peace. Instead, do something creative that will lead to self-

improvement. ❖❖❖❖ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do things around home that will add to your comfort or entertainment. A creative change to something you've been working on a long time will speed up the process and help you

complete what you began. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Personal matters will surface, resulting in changes that will have to be made quickly to

avoid loss. Once you know where you stand and take care of business, you can finally start moving forward. Most of all, don't live a lie. OOO

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let anyone make changes to an idea on which you are working. Move forward by yourself

get the results you want. Love is in the stars. ••• AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't leave anything unfinished, especially if it has to do with your home, family, children or good friends. Working from home will give

you a chance to move ahead toward reaching your goals. Realize your potential. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone may be hiding something from you. Don't be too pushy or you may ruin a surprise.

even if it means less capital or taking a little longer to

Suspicion or jealousy will leave you feeling foolish about things you said. Keep a watchful eye, a closed mouth and an open mind. 🗪

Birthday Baby: You are motivated and in control. You are popular, sensitive, adaptable and openminded. You are a perfectionist and a competitor.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations



Things

You -

25 Meadow

26 Deterio-

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH I ALREADY ASKED HIM HE'S TOO ENGROSSED AFRAID TO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY.

5 Citylong time rate 12 Imogene 27 Lubricate 47 Marx related of "Your **Brothers** 6 Comes-**28** Big Show of movie tibles bother 29 Craggy 49 Look Shows" 7 Possess **13** Tier lecher-8 Of a peak 31 Trail cultural 14 Smartously 50 Duel phone group behind 9 Sandwich 34 Throttles name tool 51 Mimic 15 lowa city cookie 35 Feedbag 16 Dunce 52 Nevada 10 "Swell!" 36 By way 18 Lucille citv 11 Lavs 53 Disarray down the Ball. 37 Soak up notably 54 Uncooklawn 17 Supple-20 39 Warner **55** Pod Landing" mented, Bros. 21 Hostel dweller with "out" skunk 19 Conclu-22 Main-Pepé DOWN 40 Same as lander's sion souvenir 1 Cicatrix 22 Journey above 41 Put one 23 Lost 2 Arrive segment color over on 26 Minute-42 Summer-Solution time: 21 mins. man's foe time 30 Raw rock desserts **31** Journal 43 Imago-in-32 Altar affirmative 44 Curved 33 Sailor's molding 45 Arm wool iacket bone **36** Bravery 46 Drudge 38 Crone 48 Galley 39 Women's implement Yesterday's answer 110 18 38 45 For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

1		5				7	3	
	3		4	1				6
7								4
	2				5			
	1			4			5 4	
			3				4	
2								9
4				2	9		1	
	7	6				3		8

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

	Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer								
1	4	5	8	9	6	7	3	2	
8	3	2	4	1	7	5	9	6	
7	6	9	5	3	2	1	8	4	
3	2	4	9	7	5	8	6	1	
6	1	7	2	4	8	9	5	3	
5	9	8	3	6	1	2	4	7	
2	5	1	6	8	3	4	7	9	
4	8	3	7	2	9	6	1	5	
9	7	6	1	5	4	3	2	8	

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WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below app HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell

BOULDER, COLORADO

LIVELIHOODLIART GNSSNORITALFEER NTMWNCMOOBRLTR I A © O O L E A S R E N I E U PLENTAULEXSCALD PLSTUNNLLERTDYY OEUERYTANEBAITG H C M R E O A T E O G L T L O STOINNIKOLREIEL IUVDIFNKDACNOBO NAIIPISMESATNNN GLENLLOPXUOISEH LSSGAMRMRAHCAEC EGNITTESEIKCORE SEDIMENTARYDOGT

Alpine, Books, Boom, Canyon, Charm, Clean, College, Cool, Creek, Film, Fitness, Flatirons, Free, Greenbelt, Intellectuals, Livelihood, Mesa, Mountains, Movies, Museums, Nature, Pearl, Relax, Riding, Rockies, Sedimentary, Setting, Shopping, Singles, Sioux, Talent, Technology, Traditions, Trail, Trendy, Tyler, Winter

Yesterday's Answer: Champlain

Y **esterday 's Answer: Champlain** reasury 4 is available to order by sending dreck or money order for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling (\$14.20 total, U.S. unds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 plb for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Aftn: Wooderword, 4520 Mai kt, Kanasa City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at uguzzles.com.

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Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

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Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Kenny Perry wins Buick Open

GRAND BLANC, Mich. (AP)—Kentucky, Kenny Perry is coming home.

Perry shot a 6-under 66 on Sunday to win the Buick Open by a stroke at 19 under, likely locking up a spot on the Ryder Cup team that will face Europe at Valhalla about 40 miles from his birthplace.

"I'm ecstatic," he said. "It really won't sink in until I'm actually putting on the red, white and blue."

Perry was amazed he won at Warwick Hills for a second time because Woody Austin closed with consecutive bogeys to blow the tournament and Bubba Watson just missed a 12-footer that would've forced a playoff.

While Perry was on the driving range, he backed into earning \$900,000.

"I still can't believe I won," he said. "I feel like I need to go make a birdie out there to win."

Austin and Watson shot 68s.

The 47-year-old Perry joined Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson as the only multiple winners this year on the PGA Tour, became the oldest player to win at Warwick Hills and joined a short list of multiple champions in the event.

Vijay Singh has three Buick Open titles, while Tiger Woods, Julius Boros, Tony Lema and now Perry have two in the tournament that celebrated its 50th anniversary.

"It's always nice to have your name associated with the greats of the game," Perry said. "I'm just hanging onto the shirttails.

"I'm the guy that's going to get their clubs out of the trunks of their car."

Austin sounded like he wanted to hide in a trunk.

He became the leader by curling a 9-footer in at the 16th, then fell back into a tie by missing a 13-foot putt for par on the next hole. Austin three-putted from 63 feet to close the tournament and put Perry ahead.

"I threw it away," said Austin, whose demonstrative ways led him to cup a



Kenny Perry holds the winner's trophy after winning the Buick Open at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc, Mich., Sunday, June 29, 2008.

ball and slam it against the wood board marking the 7th tee. "I didn't hit the ball close enough to the hole the last two holes to counteract my yips.

"I've got to figure it out or I'd bet-

Watson had a chance to force a 73rd

hole despite a hooked tee shot by remarkably punching the ball onto the green to set up a

makable putt that he barely missed.

"If someone had told me that on a tight golf course I'd have a putt for a playoff, I'd have taken the putt and skipped the rest of the week," he said.

Perry is not going to be at the British Open because he already committed to playing in Milwaukee the same week, following his decision to not attempt to qualify for the U.S. Open the day after winning the Memorial.

"I committed to all these tournaments before when I was ranked 100th in the world," he explained. "Now all of a

sudden I've won twice, I'm probably top 20 in the world now.

"I've already committed to Milwaukee and I'm not going to back out."

Perry, who won in 2001 at Warwick Hills, has 11 victories on the PGA Tour.

He had a bogey-eagle-bogey-birdie stretch that dropped him from the lead and put him back into a tie with Austin at the 16th.

His best shot of the week was at the par-4 14th, where his tee shot landed in sand and he chipped in for eagle from 30 yards.

"It came off like a dream, took two hops and just slam-dunked right in the cup," Perry said. "You never expect to make them, but that really energized me for the last few holes.'

But Perry lost the lead at 15 when he plugged a shot into a greenside bunker, leading to a bogey that put Austin ahead.

Perry bounced back at 16 with a birdie, putting him in position to take advantage of Austin's collapse and Watson's errant tee shot on the final hole.

With Tiger Woods sidelined by season-ending knee surgery, Perry trails just two active players in U.S. Ryder Cup standings and one in the FedEx Cup standings.

He has all but guaranteed he'll reach his goal of playing for his country in his home state and improving his chances to win \$10 million in the PGA Tour's playoff.

"With Tiger out, it's just a great opportunity for an old guy here to actually steal some money in that FedEx Cup," Perry said. "So that's what we're after now."

Before Perry gets a chance to win the loot, though, he will get an opportunity in September to live a dream.

"My only goal was to make The Ryder Cup team, and that's really got me focused for whatever reason," he said. "It's at home in Valhalla in my home state and at a golf course that I lost the 1996 PGA Championship to Mark Brooks in a playoff.

"I just feel like I needed to go back there."

Spain nicks Germany 1-0 in European Championship

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—A championship 44 years in the waiting is worth a special celebration. Spain made sure it didn't disappoint any of its fans Sunday night, both during its 1-0 victory over Germany to win the European Championship, and after it.

Fernando Torres scored in the 33rd minute and the Spaniards never backed down against such a formidable opponent. Their last significant title came in the 1964 Euros at home.

"It is to me the most important day in Spanish football in many, many years," Torres said.

Against the highly accomplished Germans, the Spaniards weren't intimidated. They got the one goal they needed—from a slumping striker, no less-and set off chants of "ES-PANA!" and "Ole, Ole Ole!" at the final whistle.

The entire Spanish squad ran over to the huge rooting section of red and gold, exchanging hugs, while many of the spent Germans collapsed to the turf.

When Spain goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas accepted the trophy on a stage, the Spanish fans began chanting the melody to their national anthem, which has no words. Thousands of camera flashes went off as the players jumped in place, then headed onto the field to show off their prize.

The Spaniards weren't close to finished with their celebration that was so long in the making. They marched to their rooting section, hoisting the cup and saluting their flag-waving, firecracker-exploding fans.

"We have won in a brilliant way," coach Luis Aragones said. "We will be able to start saying we can win, a European championship as well as any other thing."

In beating a team that makes a habit of appearing in championship finals, the Spaniards put to rest a reputation for underachieving. Always loaded with talented players, Spain has spent four decades falling short of expectations.

men nowhere in



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Rafael Nadal has helped his nation cure its longtime aversion to lawn tennis,

and he'll be one of three Spanish men playing Monday in the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Switzerland, France, Russia and Croatia have two players apiece among the final 16. Britain, which last won the men's singles title in 1936, advanced one man to the second week, as did Australia, Germany, Serbia and even the island of Cyprus.

And the United States? None.

The nation that produced Andre Agassi, Don Budge, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe, Pete Sampras and Bill Tilden finds itself in a collective slump. And there's no sign of a turnaround.

"We've been struggling for a long time, and it has just gotten worse," said Gene Mayer, a former top-five player who coaches privately in New York. "We just are producing no players."

For the first time since 1926, only one U.S. male-No. 102-ranked Bobby Reynolds—reached the third round at Wimbledon. He lost Friday.

The problem isn't grass. At last vear's French Open, American men went 0-9, their worst showing on the Roland Garros clay in at least 40 years. The last U.S. male to win a major title was Andy Roddick at the U.S. Open in

The drought is less noticeable on the women's side only because of the Williams sisters, who have combined for 14 major titles. They and Bethanie Mattek were the lone Americans to survive the first week at Wimbledon.

American men went 5-12. Eight lost in the first round, including Olympians Sam Querrey and Robby Ginepri. Andy Roddick and James Blake lost in the second round.

Poor Reynolds, delighted to equal his best Grand Slam result at age 25, was left to explain why U.S. fortunes continue to

"Around the world tennis is a huge sport, and maybe it's not No. 1 over in the States," he said. "In the States you have basketball, baseball, football, golf. You have so many avenues that people can try out. I think that might have something to do with it."

But tennis has always been well down the list of the most popular sports in the United States. What has changed is the way kids learn the game, with the most precocious youngsters often

being steered at an early age toward a tennis academy.

Mayer said the grass-roots tutoring of earlier eras produced better results.

"It was quality coaches working in intimate settings with players," he said. "Now everyone goes to academies so young, and you never learn to play tennis. You don't learn at age 7, 8, 9, 10 in a group setting with 200 kids. You learn it one-on-one with a coach."

ed States, waves of talented youngsters keep surfacing in Europe, Asia and South America. Ricardo Acuna, a national coach for the U.S. Tennis Association, said Americans are winning less because the game has gone more

"More than it's a drought, it's that the world got better," said Acuna, a Chilean who ranked in the top 50 in the

"When I first started playing, 50 percent of the draw was Americans, and then there was the rest of us-South Americans or Europeans. But now it's the other way around, especially with like France and Spain, and then you have the smaller countries too that have a lot of good players.

"Tennis is the biggest sport or the

second-best sport in those countries. In the U.S. it's probably like the 30th sport behind many others."

Tennis finds itself in a vicious cycle. With fewer Americans doing well, the sport becomes less popular in the United States and participation drops. That means fewer youngsters take up the game, which reduces the pool of potential future champions.

Three-time Grand Slam champion While development lags in the Unit- Lindsay Davenport has noticed a transformation of tennis during her career.

> "It has kind of slipped in the rankings of sports watched on TV and overall popularity in the public," Davenport said. "I don't know exactly what the answers are to get it to be more popular, but worldwide it's definitely a bigger hit than in the United States."

> In April, the USTA hired Davis Cup captain Patrick McEnroe to save American tennis. His job is to coordinate player development, with help from a new advisory board and coaches commission to scout and groom talent

But past USTA pledges to improve development have gone unfulfilled, and even if McEnroe is successful, the payback is at least a decade away. It's certain there won't be any comeback by the U.S. men at this year's Wimbledon.

Lackey leads Angels to 1-0 win over Dodgers



LOS ANGE-LES (AP)—John Lackey held the Dodgers to three

hits for 8 2-3 innings, Francisco Rodriguez retired James Loney with the bases loaded for the final out and the Angels avoided a sweep with a 1-0 win over the Dodgers on Sunday.

On Saturday night, Jered Weaver and reliever Jose Arredondo did not allow a hit but the Angels lost to the Dodgers 1-0 on an unearned run. Weaver took the loss in the unofficial no-hitter.

Mike Napoli's RBI single off Derek Lowe (5-8) in the second inning Sunday was all the offense the Angels needed.

Rodriguez, who came in with two outs in the ninth and runners on first and second, walked Jeff Kent to load the bases, then got Loney on a routine grounder to second to earn his major league-leading 32nd save.

Tigers 4, Rockies 3

At Detroit, Dane Sardinha hit a two-run triple for his first major league hit to rally the Tigers to a win over woeful Colorado, giving Detroit a three-game sweep.

Detroit, which won its fifth straight and 15th in its last 18, has a winning record for the first time this season.

Troy Tulowitzki homered for Colorado, which lost its seventh straight.

Kenny Rogers (6-5) allowed three runs and eight hits in six innings.

Twins 5, Brewers 0

At Minneapolis, Kevin Slowey breezed through his fourth straight dominant start, beating Ben Sheets and Milwaukee with a three-hit shutout.

Delmon Young's two-run homer and Carlos Gomez's RBI triple highlighted an impressive revival by the Twins against the previously surging Sheets (9-2), hours after their 10-game winning streak ended.

Slowey (5-6) retired the first 10 batters he faced and struck out eight in his first career shutout, second complete game.

Marlins 4, Diamondbacks 3

At Miami, Jorge Cantu hit a gameending RBI single, Hanley Ramirez hit a tying home run and the Marlins came back to beat Arizona.

Ramirez's 18th home run of the season tied it at 3 in the ninth. Jeremy Hermida then doubled, and took third on a wild pitch by closer Brandon Lyon to set up Cantu's single.

It was the third blown save in 19 chances for Lyon (2-2).

Mets 3, Yankees 1

At New York, Oliver Perez pitched another gem against the Yankees, Carlos Delgado homered again and the Mets won this year's Subway Series.

Billy Wagner closed out the Mets' fourth win in the six-game rivalry. It was just the second time since interleague play started in 1997 that they've taken the season series.

Perez (6-5) limited the Yankees to one run and three hits in seven sharp innings. Billy Wagner pitched the ninth for his 18th save in 23 chances.

Astros 3. Red Sox 2

At Houston, Mark Loretta had a pinchhit, RBI single in the eighth inning off Hideki Okajima as the Astros took two of three from the Red Sox.

2006, batted for Doug Brocail (4-3), who earned a victory in relief for the second straight night. Jose Valverde worked the ninth for his 21st save.

Boston's Josh Beckett, who was born and raised in nearby Spring, Texas, gave up two runs and eight hits, but took his third no-decision in six starts.

Manny Ramirez it in the seventh

Loretta, who played for Boston in with a 1.73 ERA in five daytime home starts, lasted 4 2-3 innings and gave up seven runs and nine hits.

> Rookie Chris Perez (2-0) got the victory after relieving starter Braden Looper, who had a 5-3 lead when he was lifted with one out in the fourth and the bases loaded. Perez went 1 1-3 innings and gave up two hits and one run on Mark Teahen's RBI single.



Los Angeles Angels pitcher John Lackey throws against the Los Angeles Dodgers in the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 29, 2008, in Los Angeles.

with a solo homer off Houston's Oscar Villareal, before Okajima (1-3) gave up a run in relief for the second time in three nights.

Cardinals 9, Royals 6

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jason LaRue drove in four runs with a home run and a triple and Albert Pujols also homered, leading the Cardinals over Kansas City.

Every Cardinal batter had a hit except Adam Kennedy, who scored twice and drove in a run.

Mariners 9, Padres 2

At San Diego, Ichiro Suzuki went 5-for-5, Adrian Beltre and Jeff Clement homered and the Mariners beat Jake Peavy and the punchless Padres for a three-game sweep.

The three-game winning streak matches the Mariners' season high. Although Seattle still has the worst record in the major leagues at 31-50, the Padres (32-51) are closing fast.

The Padres have lost a seasonhigh eight straight games and 13 Bannister (7-7), who had been 4-0 of 15, all against the AL. The Pa-

dres finished interleague play 3-15, worst in the majors.

Erik Bedard (5-4) won for the first time in five starts and improved to 3-0 lifetime against the Padres.

Reds 9, Indians 5

At Cleveland, Bronson Arroyo bounced back from the worst start of his career and Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer to help Cincinnati beat Cleveland for the fifth time in six games this season.

Arroyo (5-7) struck out six and gave up two runs over six innings.

The Indians went 6-12 against NL teams and have lost eight of their last 12 overall. Monday, they go to Chicago to open an eight-game trip-all against AL Central opponents.

Edwin Encarnacion's two-run homer capped the Reds' five-run fifth off Aaron Laffey (4-5).

Ben Francisco hit his sixth home run, a two-run shot off Jeremy Affeldt with two out in the bottom of the ninth.

Rays 4, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, backup catcher Shawn Riggans homered and drove in two runs and Tampa Bay completed a remarkable first-half turnaround, beating Pittsburgh behind Andy Sonnanstine's seven effective innings.

Sonnanstine (9-3) limited the Pirates to two runs, one earned, and is 6-0 after a Rays loss. Tampa Bay was a 4-3, 13inning loser on Saturday night.

The Rays are 49-32, the most victories midway through a season by a team that had the majors' worst record the season before, according to Stats, Inc.

Riggans and Willy Aybar hit solo home runs, the only runs allowed by Pirates starter Tom Gorzelanny in six innings, and Riggans' run-scoring single highlighted a go-ahead two-run eighth inning.

Blue Jays 1, Braves 0

At Toronto, A.J. Burnett allowed four hits in seven innings, Alex Rios drove in the only run of the game and Toronto beat Atlanta.

Burnett (8-7) struck out a seasonhigh 11 and walked four, one intentional. His 119 pitches were also a season high.

Scott Downs worked the eighth, extending his scoreless innings streak to 26, the longest current streak in baseball. B.J. Ryan pitched a perfect ninth to pick up his 16th save in 18 opportunities.

Nationals 3, Orioles 2, 12 innings

At Washington, Ronnie Belliard hit a two-run homer in the 12th inning to give the Nationals the win over Baltimore.

The Orioles had taken a 2-1 lead in the top of the 12th on Adam Jones' single. George Sherrill (2-3) retired the first two in the bottom half. But Dmitri Young, Washington's last position player available, walked as a pinch hitter.

Belliard then drove a 1-2 pitch into the left-field stands for his sixth homer of the year.

Giants 11, Athletics 1

At Oakland, California, Rich Aurilia homered and matched his career high with five RBIs to help San Francisco get its first series win in the Bay Area rivalry in two years.

Jonathan Sanchez (8-4) won his fifth straight road start. Ray Durham doubled twice and drove in a run and John Bowker had three hits and drove in a pair of runs for the Giants, who won their fourth in six games overall.

Jack Cust hit a home run, and Joe Blanton (4-11) became the first AL pitcher with 11 losses as the A's dropped their third in five games.

Rangers 5, Phillies 1

At Arlington, Texas, Eric Hurley pitched into the sixth inning to earn his first major league win and Chris Davis homered to lead the Rangers past the Phillies.

Hurley (1-1) allowed one run and five hits over 5 2-3 innings in his fourth big league start. The 22-year-old rookie struck out three and walked two.

Davis, a 22-year-old rookie who was called up from the minors Thursday, became the first Rangers player to homer in each of his first two starts, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

White Sox 5, Cubs 1

At Chicago, Carlos Quentin, Brian Anderson and Jim Thome homered to back Mark Buehrle's seven strong innings as the White Sox completed a three-game sweep at U.S. Cellular Field.

The White Sox won three straight at their home park, one week after the Cubs took three in a row across town at Wrigley Field.

Thome's 15th homer, a two-run blast in the eighth off reliever Jose Ascanio, was his 522nd, moving him past Ted Williams and Willie Mc-Covey into sole possession of 16th

Bail set for man held in Raiders' Walker case



LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man charged with kidnapping, beating and robbing Javon Walker this month after the Oakland wide re-

ceiver spent a night club-hopping was held Friday on bail totaling \$86,000.

Arfat Fadel's lawyer, public defender Shane Emerick, said outside court he doubted Fadel could make bail. Emerick said Fadel intended to plead not guilty to charges that he and an unidentified second man followed Walker from club to club before enticing him into their vehicle and robbing him.

Justice of the Peace Tony Abbatangelo set bail at \$73,000 and scheduled a preliminary hearing for July 16 on four felony charges: first-degree kidnapping,

conspiracy to commit robbery, robbery, and battery causing substantial bodily harm. A kidnapping conviction carries a sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

The 30-year-old Fadel, of Las Vegas, told another judge Wednesday that he couldn't raise \$13,000 bail in a separate kidnapping and domestic battery case.

Las Vegas police say Fadel has not cooperated with investigators who are seeking another man shown in surveillance videotapes with Fadel shadowing Walker at nightclubs late June 15.

Police say the 29-year-old Walker "willingly" got into a vehicle with Fadel and the other man in a valet area at the posh Bellagio resort about dawn June 16. Walker, who a police lieutenant characterized as intoxicated, was found robbed, beaten and unconscious a little more than an hour later.

Walker sustained broken bones in his jaw and around his right eye, and a concussion, according to a police report submitted to the court. Police said \$3,000 in cash, at least two \$1,000 gambling chips, two credit cards, and a watch, diamond earrings and necklace worth a combined \$100,000 were taken. The items have not been recovered.

The police report details Walker's visit to the Body English nightclub, where he was photographed spraying champagne into the crowd, and a brief a foray to the Hard Rock casino where police say he won \$1,600 playing blackjack before he went to the Dorm Days

after-hours club at the Hard Rock.

Walker arrived back at the Bellagio in a car with a female friend before police said he got into a black Range Rover with Fadel and the other suspect about 6 a.m.

Walker later told police he never met the men before.

Walker called his female friend once, and said he was at Drai's, an after-hours nightclub at Bill's Gamblin' Hall & Saloon on the Strip. Walker was found unconscious shortly after 7 a.m. several blocks away.

The Range Rover was seen on surveillance videotapes at the Bellagio and at Drai's, police said. It was traced to Fadel's girlfriend, Alicia Granstedt, 32, of Los Gatos, Calif., and was found near an extended-stay motel near the Strip.

Ginebra continues rise, reaches .500 mark

MANILA, Philippines—Barangay Ginebra sustained the momentum of its two-game romp despite a long two-week layoff, staying in the hunt for an outright semifinals berth with a 100-89 drubbing of Talk n Text in the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum Sunday night.

Jayjay Helterbrand erupted for 30 points and Chris Alexander came through with a huge double-double game with 22 points and 17 rebounds as the Kings beat the Pals for the first time in their last six meetings dating back to last conference.

Mark Caguioa had significant contributions with 23 points, five rebounds and three assists as the Kings defeated the Pals in a highly emotional game marred by six technical fouls and the ejection of Talk n Text

Palacios also crossed home

plate before the bleeding finally

stopped when Tenorio forced

Down 8-0, Guam managed to

squeeze out two runs against Ig-

uel in the fourth when Jonoven

Dela Cruz scored on an error and

Carl Quintanilla reached home on

That was it for Guam

though, as Iguel locked in the

rest of the way-ceding a in-

a sacrifice fly by Nathan Cruz.

Salas to fly out to centerfield.

LAMARC

From Page 28

import Terrence Leather.

Leather was thrown out of the game on two technical fouls and later figured in a near fight with the Ginebra players in the hallway leading the dugouts after the contest.

place with an 8-8 winloss card, just halfgame behind joint fourth placers the Alaska Milk Aces and the Magnolia Beverage Masters at 9-8.

Magnolia's 80-79 squeaker over Alaska earlier in the night gave Air21 (11-6) a free ride into the semifinals. Red Bull also benefited on Magnolia's win, assuring itself of at least a quarterfinals berth.

Sliding to 8-9, Talk n Text is now out of the fight for an automatic passage into the semifinals.

"We're getting the right

chemistry. We're getting along well with our import who provides as an intimidating inside presence. Our only regret is getting him a bit late," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

"We're not yet out of the The Kings moved up to sixth woods. We still have to look

forward to our last two games," Uichico added.

The Kings were supposed to play the Alaska Milk Aces a week ago but their game was postponed due to Typhoon Frank.

Ginebra, however, hardly lost the momentum of a two-game streak against Talk n Text.

The Pals struggled on the floor-so much so that coach Chot Reyes called on his players to shoot free throws before letting them to their dugout at the half.

It took the Pals a 12-point explosion by Jay Washington in the second quarter as they rallied to within four, 43-47, at the turn after trailing by as many as 15 early on.

Helterbrand sizzled with 16 points for the Kings in the first half marred by a pushing and shoving match between Ronald Tubid and Macmac Cardona.

Ginebra 100 - Helterbrand 30, Caguioa 23, Alexander 17, Tubid 9, Menk 8, Valenzuela 7, Artadi 2, Mamaril 2, Crisano 2.

Talk n Text 89 – Leather 23, Washington 22, Peek 15, Cardona 12, Alapag 12, carey 2, Ritualo 2, Allado 0, Chia 0, Lao 0, Belano 0, De Ocampo 0.

Quarterscores: 27-20, 47-43, 75-70, 100-89. (www.pba.com.ph)

consequential run to Binuya in the top of the seventh—before the pitch count did what Guam

The game ended on a bizarre play when Frank Troy was called out after leaving third base too early following a second out fly ball by Zacharias Bukikosa.

batters failed to do.

Earlier, Hong Kong won its debut in Junior League play after thumping Indonesia, 13-3.

The former Crown Colony was at its deadliest in the second when its hitters pelted Indonesia's pitcher Rawafi Rozali for seven runs after scoring two in the first. Hong Kong added four more insurance runs in the fourth to complete the carnage.

In yesterday's third game, the Philippines gave the hosts an 11-7 drubbing in the Senior League. Details of the game, however, were still not available as of press time.

On Sunday's fourth game, the Philippines leaned on a sacrifice fly by Gian Almendras that scored Angelo Esguerra to nip Guam, 8-7, in the Big League.

The International Little League Association of Manila actually enjoyed a 7-0 lead in

the first four innings of the contest, but Guam came back with seven runs in the final three to nearly force extra innings.

The tournament resumes at 9am today with Indonesia still looking for its first win in the Juniors against a formidable Philippine team. The 11am contest would then pit Hong Kong vs. the CNMI, also in the Junior League.

Action continues in the afternoon with Philippines taking on CNMI in the Big League beginning at 1pm, while Indonesia and Guam will square off in the 3pm game in the Junior division.

BEST

From Page 28

Athletics and the 2008 Oceania Championships organizing committee, led by Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, exceeded everyone's expectations.

"If you're going to run a successful Oceania Championships you should need a lot of things to go right and what happened here this week is everything went right. In a scale of 1-10, I would give the 2008 Oceania Championships a 9.9."

The OAA executive direc-

tor said her thoughts about Saipan's hosting of the area championships is not confined to herself and other officials as the athletes also had a lot of positive things to say about the eight-day event.

"I would hope that we would be coming back here for other regional championships or something...[like] the Micronesian Games... this is a truly great [island] and we've just enjoyed it so much. I think it's one of the best places in the Pacific. The hospitality here has just been out of this world and we're loving it. I don't know how I will be able to get the athletes into the plane the next two days because they wouldn't want to leave," she said.

Even Saipan's oppressive heat and incomparable humidity turned out to be only minor annoyances for the participants of the 2008 Oceania Championships.

"Sometimes you get places that are cold-Australia and New Zealand—but we came here and it's hot. What goes around comes around. It's part of the challenge. It's hot for everybody or it's cold for everybody. It was just a great Championships event."

mance by the PNG women who

year. Koime has an Olympic

B-Qualifying performance of

For his part, NMA president and local organizing committee co-chair Kurt Barnes thanked Mullins and OAA for their positive review of Saipan's hosting.

"We were told tonight by all the off-island officials and also Yvonne Mullins, the executive director of Oceania, that this is the greatest Oceania Championships... the best one ever. We're all pleased with the smoothness of the Championships—the food, the housing, the competition, the results, the media. I would also like to thank all the spectators and the sponsors."

Games. The elite PNG athletes now move to South East Oueensland for more competition and efforts to improve their 2008 rankings and rewrite some of the PNG national records," said the OAA.

ERIN

From Page 28

est pursuers.

Finishing below Komei in the women's Grand Prix rankings

were four other PNG athletes— Toea Wisil (1,154 points), Salome have been performing well all Dell (1,146), Sharon Kwarula (1.084), and Betty Burua (1,069). Makelesi Tumalevu of Fiji came in fifth with 1.073 points.

"It was a dominant perfor-

11.37 seconds to her credit and is moving back to that level in the run-up to the Beijing

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE **East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB						
Tampa Bay	49	32	.605	_						
Boston	50	34	.595	1/2						
New York	44	38	.537	5 1/2						
Baltimore	41	39	.513	7 1/2						
Toronto	40	43	.482	10						
Control Division										

Chicago	46	35	.568	_
Minnesota	45	37	.549	1 1/2
Detroit	41	40	.506	5
Cleveland	37	45	.451	9 1/2
Kansas City	37	45	.451	9 1/2
				

West Division

Los Angeles	49	33	.598	_
Oakland	44	37	.543	4 1/2
Texas	42	41	.506	7 1/2
Seattle	31	50	.383	17 1/

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

		•		
Philadelphia	44	39	.530	_
Florida	42	39	.519	1
New York	40	41	.494	3
Atlanta	40	43	.482	4
Washington	33	50	.398	11

Central Division

Chicago	49	33	.598 _	
St. Louis	47	36	.566	2 1/2
Milwaukee	44	37	.543	4 1/2
Houston	39	43	.476	10
Pittsburgh	38	43	.469	10 1/
Cincinnati	38	45	.458	11 1/

West Division

Arizona	41	41	.500	_
Los Angeles	38	43	.469	2 1/2
San Francisco	36	46	.439	5
Colorado	32	50	.390	9
San Diego	32	51	.386	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games Detroit 4. Colorado 3

Cincinnati 9, Cleveland 5 Toronto 1, Atlanta 0 N.Y. Mets 3, N.Y. Yankees 1 Florida 4, Arizona 3 Tampa Bay 4, Pittsburgh 3 Washington 3, Baltimore 2, 12 innings Houston 3. Boston 2 Minnesota 5, Milwaukee 0 St. Louis 9, Kansas City 6 Seattle 9, San Diego 2 San Francisco 11, Oakland 1 L.A. Angels 1, L.A. Dodgers 0 Texas 5, Philadelphia 1

BUICK OPEN SCORES

Chicago White Sox 5, Chicago Cubs 1

GRAND BLANC, Michigan (AP)-Scores from Saturday's third round of the \$5 million (£3.17 million) Buick Open on the 7,127-yard (6,515-meter), par-72 Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club:

FINAL ROUND

Kenny Perry (4500), \$900,000	69-67-67-66	269
Woody Austin (2200), \$440,000	66-67-69-68	270
Bubba Watson (2200), \$440,000	67-67-68-68	270
Bob Tway (1033), \$206,667	68-71-67-65	271
Ken Duke (1033), \$206,667	69-66-69-67	271
Matt Jones (1033), \$206,667	70-63-71-67	271
Brian Gay (806), \$161,250	69-68-70-65	272
Lucas Glover (806), \$161,250	70-66-69-67	272
John Rollins (675), \$135,000	72-64-72-65	273
Fredrik Jacobson (675), \$135,000	68-66-72-67	273
Dudley Hart (675), \$135,000	64-68-70-71	273
Kevin Streelman (490), \$98,000	70-68-70-66	274
Brett Rumford (490), \$98,000	70-69-67-68	274
Michael Letzig (490), \$98,000	69-67-69-69	274
Corey Pavin (490), \$98,000	64-74-67-69	274
Briny Baird (490), \$98,000	65-71-68-70	274
Robert Garrigus (316), \$63,250	69-69-72-65	275
Charles Howell III (316), \$63,250	71-66-71-67	275
Glen Day (316), \$63,250	72-69-66-68	275
Scott Verplank (316), \$63,250	68-72-66-69	275
Rod Pampling (316), \$63,250	71-69-65-70	275

67-68-69-71 275 Charles Warren (316), \$63,250 Bo Van Pelt (316), \$63,250 64-66-73-72 275 Daniel Chopra (316), \$63,250 65-67-68-75 275 Ben Crane (204), \$40,833 68-73-68-67 276 Jason Gore (204), \$40,833 68-68-71-69 276 Charlie Wi (204), \$40,833 72-65-69-70 276 Marc Turnesa (174), \$34,750 71-69-69-68 277 Tom Lehman (174), \$34,750 71-67-70-69 277 Rocco Mediate (174), \$34,750 71-69-67-70 277 Paul Goydos (174), \$34,750 71-70-65-71 277 67-70-71-70 278 Tag Ridings (145), \$28,938 Ryan Palmer (145), \$28,938 70-66-71-71 278 Stephen Leanev (145), \$28,938 67-70-70-71 278 Craig Barlow (145), \$28,938 70-69-67-72 278 J.P. Hayes (108), \$21,528 71-68-74-66 279 Chris Riley (108), \$21,528 71-69-72-67 279 Charley Hoffman (108), \$21,528 70-70-72-67 279 Nick Watney (108), \$21,528 69-66-76-68 279 Shigeki Maruyama (108), \$21,528 66-75-69-69 279 Lee Janzen (108), \$21,528 67-73-70-69 279 72-65-72-70 279 Jimmy Walker (108), \$21,528 Jim Furyk (108), \$21,528 68-72-68-71 279 Todd Hamilton (108), \$21,528 70-66-70-73 279 Peter Lonard (78), \$15,500 70-68-73-69 280 69-70-69-72 280 Billy Mayfair (78), \$15,500 Todd Demsey (78), \$15,500 68-67-71-74 280 Cameron Beckman (62), \$12,429 74-67-71-69 281 Nick O'Hern (62), \$12,429 68-72-70-71 281 Brad Elder (62), \$12,429 67-71-72-71 281 Shane Bertsch (62), \$12,429 71-69-70-71 281 66-69-73-73 281 Jon Mills (62), \$12,429 Tom Byrum (62), \$12,429 67-69-72-73 281 Mark Hensby (62), \$12,429 71-68-69-73 281 Tim Wilkinson (57), \$11,350 71-70-71-70 282 Michael Bradley (57), \$11,350 73-68-70-71 282 Justin Leonard (57), \$11,350 71-68-72-71 282 Harrison Frazar (57), \$11,350 68-69-73-72 282 71-70-72-70 283 Kyle Thompson (55), \$10.950 Kenneth Ferrie (55), \$10,950 66-73-74-70 283 72-69-71-71 283 Heath Slocum (55), \$10,950 71-69-68-75 283 Gavin Coles (55), \$10,950 Mathew Goggin (53), \$10,600 68-72-73-71 284 Bob Estes (53), \$10.600 70-71-71-72 284 Kevin Stadler (53), \$10,600 70-70-68-76 284 Mark Brooks (51), \$10,250 70-71-72-72 285 Jay Williamson (51), \$10,250 68-73-70-74 285 James Driscoll (51), \$10,250 72-68-71-74 285 Dustin Johnson (51), \$10,250 68-70-72-75 285 Billy Andrade (50), \$9,950 71-70-71-74 286 Chris DiMarco (50), \$9,950 70-68-74-74 286 70-70-71-76 287 Justin Bolli (49), \$9,800 Dicky Pride (48), \$9,650 69-71-73-75 288 Paul Claxton (48), \$9,650 69-70-74-75 288 John Huston (48), \$9,500 71-70-71-77 289

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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LOCAL SCORES

Asia-Pacific Little League Standings

Big League

NMI	1	U
hilippines	1	0
uam	0	2

Philippines CNMI

Senior League

Guam

Junior League				
Philippines	2	0		
CNMI	1	1		
long Kong	1	0		
Guam	0	1		

Schedule July 1

Indonesia

·		
9am	Indonesia vs. RP	Juniors
11am	HK vs. CNMI	Juniors
1pm	RP vs. CNMI	Big League
3pm	Indonesia vs. Guam	Juniors

NMIFA Standings

Team	Win	Tie	Loss
Gil Fever	2	0	0
Sureshanks	1	1	0
Captain Morgans	1	0	0
Devil's Advocates	1	0	1
GMF	0	1	1
Deaniacs	0	0	2

WABOL

From Page 28

tiebreak with Tagucghi settling for third.

A Flight was won by Frank Castro with his 83 followed by Ray San Nicolas and fomer DCCA secretary John L. Babauta who fired 85 and 86, respectively.

meanwhile, Jones, topped B Flight with his 80 with Jay Muna taking second, 87, and Larry Tenorio third, 86.

"Golden Bear" Ted Malaran was No. 1 in C Flight following a score of 83. Freddy Salavaria took second with his 87 with Adony Matutino placing third with his 91.

In the Ladies Flight, Lorraine Babauta was first with her net 74 with Shirley Jones and Terry Tudela finishing as the runnersup with their respective 75 and

Seniors Flight then saw Larry Guerrero take the plum with his 67 net, followed by Steve Balakrishna and Felix Sasamoto, who were tied at 68.

The San Roque parish council wishes to thank all those who have gave their time and

who donated to make this year's tournament one of the best golf fundraising events for San Roque. The council also said kudos to the players and volunteers.

Wabol won last year's tournament after firing a two-over par 74 following a 34 in the front and a 40 in the back performance in May 27, 2007, also at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort.

Fourth Bing monthly honors for Zapanta

By MARK RABAGO mark_rabago@saipantribune.com



Raphael Zapanta won his fourth Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tour-

nament of the year after beating four other youth bowlers Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

The son of bowling officials Ross and Gigi Zapanta knocked down 751 pinfalls in a fourgame series to finish with an average of 187.75.

The 13-year-old Chacha Junior High School student rolled a brilliant 193 and a scorehing 202 in his first two games before cooling off with a 183 and 173 in his final two to post the score to beat in the monthly competition among the islands' top youth keglers.

Zapanta added the June title to his previous triumphs last February, March, and May.

Trailing Zapanta by 39 pins



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

June Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament champion Raphael Zapanta is flanked by Zack was April champion Zack Cruz Cruz, left, and J.D. Torres following the competition Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

who wound up with a 712 total and a 178 average. Cruz started out slowly by firing a pedestrian 152 in the first game. He made up for that with a 189 in the second before closing strong with throws of 170 and 201.

J.D. Torres finished third with a four-game series of 651 and 162.75 average. He started out with a 146, rolled a 169 in the second, 186 in the third, before limping in the homestretch with a 150.

Jamie Vales and Troy Verparticipants for the June Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament with pinfall totals of 621 and 490, respectively.

For finishing 1-2-3, Zapanta, Cruz, and Torres won \$20, \$15, and \$10, respectively from SBA.

Simon Manacop and Gloria Omechalang, meanwhile, are leading the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes following Sunday's roll-off at the Garapan venue.

Manacop opened up with two 200-plus scores Sunday and wound up with an 814 total and 203.5 average to top the men's division. He was followed by Jonathan Hensley (806 and 201.5) and Raymond Angeles (762 and 190.5).

Omechalanag, for her part, lorded it over the women's division in Day 1 of the monthly tournament, firing one 200-plus game to finish with 714 pinfalls, good for a 178.5 average.

Gigi Zapanta (622 and 155.5) daguer make up the rest of the and Diane Chong (609 and 152.25) finished second and third Sunday in the Queen of the Lanes.

> Results of Day 2 of the twoday King and Queen of the Lanes last night were still not available as of press time.

The Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes as well as the Budweiser King and Oueen of the Lanes are sponsored by MAR-PAC. The tournaments are organized by the Saipan Bowling Association.

Fever paces Co-ed Soccer Summer League

By MARK RABAGO

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Gil Fever cur-II Association rently leads the 2008

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Co-ed Soccer Summer League with a 2-0-0 record.

The team took pole position in the thrice-a-week competition at the CPA Airport Field after beating winless Deaniacs, 3-2, last Thursday.

Jason Schroeder and Jack Thethaiguy were the scorers for Gil Fever. Schroeder scored once and Thethaiguy scored twice. On the Deaniacs' side Masa Otsuka and Jersh Angeles found the back of the net.

Last Wednesday, Angelo Villagomez and Pattie Coleman helped Devils Advocates take down GMF, 2-0.

game with new draftee Coleman scoring off a near perfect pass from Jessie Phonsutjit.

Villagomez added to the goal total with a looper from 25 yards out that was too much for keeper Greg Borja to handle.

The score was 2-0 at the half and despite some valiant efforts by CNMI National Men's Team starters Brad Ruszala and Dan Westfal, GMF was not able to score the rest of the way.

Meanwhile, a star was born in Tuesday's game pitting Steve McKagan's Sureshanks against Dave Loan's Captain Morgan's.

The teams were evenly matched through 35 minutes of play, with neither team managing to find the back of the net. First-time soccer player Rob Jordan came into the second half determined to win it for his team.

He nailed two shots in the Devils Advocates drew first second half, both on fast breaks, and possibly second place.

blood in the early minutes of the leaving the defenders in the dust, as Sureshanks defeated Captain Morgans, 2-0.

> At the end of two weeks of play, Gil Fever sits atop the rankings with a record of 2-0 and six points. Sureshanks is in second with a win and a tie, good for four points. Devils Advocates and Captain Morgans are tied for third with six points apiece.

Thethaiguy currently leads in the Golden Boot category with four goals, while Coleman leads in the woman's category as the only woman to score so far this season.

Tonight's action will have Deaniacs challenging GMF. These two teams are at the bottom of the standings.

Devils Advocates will then challenge Captain Morgan's on Wednesday. Both teams are tied for third place. The winner of this game will move into third

Gil Fever will then challenge Sureshank on Thursday. The winner of this game will move into first place, as these teams are currently first and second, respectively.

The Coed Summer League is a non-competitive league. While results and goals are tallied, the number one rule of this league is to have fun.

NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League coordinator Angelo Villagomez said the league lasts for eight weeks, with games played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Each team will play one game per week.

Games will start at 5:15pm on game days and will consist of two 35-minute halves with five-minute halftimes.

For more information about the 2008 NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League, contact co-ed league commissioner Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462.



umpire Budhi Gurung of the Amateur anas Table Tennis Association poses winners Dillay, Dexter above, and Amy Lu of the men's women's divisions of the recent Hyatt Regency Saipan ping-pong tournament.

NMBF Youth Summer Clinic draws a crowd

Participants of the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation's free badminton clinic pose after one of their sessions last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR



Northern Marianas Badminton Federation's free badmin-

ton clinic at the Gilbert C. Ada

Gymnasium drew a total of 27 participants in its first day and 35

in its second day last week. The youngest of the participants is Yum Yum Varona at only six years old, while the clinic also drew 18-year-old Luis Camacho Jr. as well as 17year-old Mt. Carmel School student Pauline Cielo.

NMBF public information officer Rey "Hapi" Gabriel said the club is still inviting the youth to take part in the clinic held at the Oleai Sports Complex venue from 8:30am to 10:30am every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The clinic runs until June 11.

Serving as coaches of the free badminton clinic are Edwin Montoya, Marconi Calindas, Macoi Aguda, and Gabriel himself, while assisting them are Juliet Ramos, Babes Cielo, and Shirley Kim.

Merlie Savellano and Malou Mendoza have also both donated their valuable time in the clinic and are in charge of refreshments.

The free clinic for the fastest growing net sport in the CNMI is open for youth ages seven to 18. Equipment and refreshments will be provided by NMBF.

For more information, contact NMBF community project and development head Edwin Montoya at 285-2046, NMBF president Marconi Calindas at 287-8445, or membership committee head Hapi Gabriel at 287-4274.

Hyatt holds ping-pong tourney



Hyatt Regency Saipan recentment with Club Elan attendant

and all-around athlete Dexter Dillay and front office assistant manager Amy Lu besting 23 other participants.

Dillay beat Froilan Wabol, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10, while Lu defeated Lucy Choi in straight sets, 11-8 and 12-10.

According to tournament organizer, Budhi Gurung of the Northern Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association, the whole tournament only lasted a couple of hours as they only adopted a best-of-three singleround elimination format for the competition.

Gurung, who works for Sablan Topline Cleaning Servicly held a ping- es, served as umpire and tourpong tourna- nament coordination of the event. The ping-pong tournament was held at the poolside of the Garapan landmark.

> The ping-pong tournament was part of Hyatt Regency Saipan's "Celebrating Our People" sports program held for three consecutive days from June 9 to June 11, 2008.

> Aside from table tennis, Hyatt employees also tried their hand in canoeing, beach volleyball, badminton, soccer, fishing, and lawn tennis.

"On three different dates from sunrise to sunset, employees were able to participate in their sport of choice," said Gurung. (Mark Rabago)



Fourth Bing monthly honors for **Z**apanta

Raphael Zapanta won his fourth Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament of the year after beating a four other youth

bowlers Sunday at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan. 27



Kenny Perry wins Buick Open

Kentucky, Kenny Perry is coming home. Perry shot a 6-under 66 on Sunday to win the Buick Open by a stroke at 19 under, likely locking



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

up a spot on the Ryder Cup team that will face Europe at Valhalla about 40 miles from his birthplace.

28 TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008

Lamarc leads NMI win against Guam

By MARK RABAGO

ASSISTANT EDITOR

amarc Iguel nearly pitched a complete game and sparked the CNMI Junior All-Stars to an 8-3 victory over Guam in the continuation of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

It was the host team's second win in as many games following Sunday's 9-6 escape against Indonesia.

Iguel only recorded three strikeouts

host's right-hander controlled both sides of the plate in dealing the U.S. territory its second loss in as many games in the Junior League. Guam lost to the Philippines, 6-7, Sunday.



The game started out as a pitching duel between Iguel and Guam ace Florencio Binuya

as neither teams' runners reached home plate in the first two innings.

That changed big time though in the third as all CNMI batters—with the exbut that was only half the story as the ception of Henry Nakamura-scored

off Binuya and his replacement Jermaine Tenorio.

McGarett Duenas started things off for Team CNMI singling off Binuya to give the hosts a lead-off runner. Iguel would advance to first and Duenas to second when Binuya was called for a balk and both runners scored on an Anthony Salas triple to make it 2-0.

Peter Tenorio would bring in Salas after Nakamura was called out and Leroy Regis, Rocco Reyes, and Diego Camacho hit consecutive singles with the latter picking up two RBIs to make it 6-0.

Shortly thereafter Camacho and Joe See LAMARC on Page 26

'Best Oceania Championships ever'



Oceania Athletics Association executive director Yvonne Mullins, left, congratulates the winners of the Oceania Grand Prix point race during the farewell dinner held at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion Saturday night.

Erin, Koime top 2008 Grand Prix points race

By MARK RABAGO

Mae Koime of Papua New Guinea headlined the top athletes of the 2008 Oceania Championships and 2008 Oceania Grand Prix held from June 21 and 28 at the Oleai Track and Field.

After five days of competition, the best three events for each of the Grand Prix athletes were selected and using the IAAF scoring tables and extra points for winning events, Erin and Komei topped their respective divisions with 1,040 and 1,228 points, respectively.

Erin earned points for his 7.50m and 7.63m performances in the long jump as well as the 15.41m he registered in the triple jump.

"It is good to see a field event spe-

cialist coming out at the top of the list. Frederic has been a stellar performer in Pacific Island Athletics since he Frederic Erin of New Caledonia and made his first appearance for New Caledonia at the South Pacific Games in 1997. He is the Pacific Islands' record holder for the long jump with a leap of 8.09m—a mark which was the French junior record at the time," noted the OAA website.

Other elite athletes that joined Erin in the Grand Prix men's rankings were Mowen Boino of PNG(1,158 points), Isoa Me of Fiji (1,092), Aunese Curreen of Samoa (1,058), Daniel Kilama of New Caledonia (1,019), and Isireli Naikelekelevesi of Fiji (998).

Koime, meanwhile, took the top spot for the women after her 11.7 in the 100m, 24.04 in the 200m, and 11.66 in the 100m trumped her clos-

See ERIN on Page 26

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Before departing the CNMI for her native Australia, Oceania Athletics Association executive director Yvonne Mullins called the 2008 Oceania Championships held here on Saipan from June 23 to 28 as the "best ever" area championships.

"This is I think is better than anything I've ever been to before. It's been the best Oceania Championships that I've ever had the opportunity to attend," she said an interview during the



closing rites held Saturday evening at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

"The competition has been great. The LOC has just been absolutely out of this world. The local organizing committee is better than any local organizing committee I've ever had the opportunity to work with. They've been fabulous," she added.

Mullins said Northern Marianas See BEST on Page 26



Lamarc Iguel controlled both sides of the plate in leading the CNMI to its second win in as many starts following an 8-3 win over Guam in yesterday's Junior League action in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Wabol wins San Roque golf anew

By MARK RABAGO

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Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol successfully defended his Championship Flight title in the 14th Annual San Roque Golf Tournament held last Saturday at the Marianas Country Club Golf Resort in Marpi.

The former Oleai Elementary School principal fired an even-par 72—after going 35 in the front and 37 in the back—to beat fellow veteran golfers Ed Manubusan and Joji Taguchi who both wound up with identical 75s.

The former judge, however, took second place on a scorecard See WABOL on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol, seen here in a file photo, won a second consecutive Championship Flight title in the 14th Annual San Roque Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Marianas Country Club.